

CONFIDENTIAL.

(8775.)

PART VI.

---

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF PERSIA.

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April to June 1906.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
1	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	85 Tel.	Apr. 1, 1906	Henjam. Repeats telegrams from Consul-General at Bushire, reporting on situation at. Proposes to try to arrange with Persian Government to allow Arab village to remain <i>in statu quo</i> .. ..	1
2	Sir N. O'Connor ..	197	Mar. 26,	Turco-Persian frontier dispute. Has told Persian Ambassador it is not advisable to suggest Anglo-Russian arbitration at present. Transmits telegram from Persian Government to Persian Ambassador. Refers to Part V, No. 247 .. ..	2
3	Mr. Spring-Rice ..	211	27,	Seistan Water Award. Refers to Part V, No. 210. Transmits private letter to M. Hartwig, communicating. Colonel Napier will explain Award to military authorities .. ..	3
4	" ..	212	27,	Anglo-Russian relations. Comments on article which appeared in the "Slovo" regarding the conditions of an Anglo-Russian understanding concerning the Middle East .. ..	4
5	" ..	215 Confidential	28,	Russian road from Kazvin to Hamadan. Refers to Part V, No. 173. Observations on. French Government would not object to internationalization of railway system..	4
6	Government of India to Mr. Morley	Telegraphic	31,	Riots in Seistan. Transmits telegrams from Agent to Governor-General of Baluchistan and Consul-General at Meshed relative to. Escort from Dalbandin proceeding to Seistan. Good conduct of Governor ..	6
7	" ..	Telegraphic	Apr. 1,	Riots in Seistan. Refers to No. 6. Instructions given to Officer Commanding detachment on the way to Robat not to cross frontier without direct order from Government of India .. ..	6
8	" ..	Telegraphic	1,	Riots in Seistan. Refers to No. 6. Transmits information from Consul at Seistan. Views of Consul and of Russians as to cause of. No attack yet on Consulate. Consul has agreed that arrest of rioters be deferred .. ..	6
9	Memorandum to Count Benckendorff	..	2,	Turco-Persian frontier dispute. His Majesty's and Russian Ambassadors at Constantinople think it might be difficult to induce Porte to accept arbitration of Great Britain and Russia .. ..	7
10	Persian Transport Company	..	2,	Kum-Sultanabad road. Claim to levy tolls on rejected by Persian Government. Asks for intervention of His Majesty's Government. Incloses report by Persian Minister of Roads and engineer on .. ..	7
11	India Office	..	3,	Seistan, disturbances in. Transmits telegram from Viceroy, forwarding report from Mr. Macpherson on forces turned out by Russians during threatened disturbances. Situation quieter .. ..	10

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
12	India Office ..	..	Apr. 3, 1906	Quarantine arrangements on Perso-Afghan frontier. Transmits telegram from Viceroy, dated 2nd April, relative to. Dispatch of officials .. ..	11
13	To Mr. E. Grant Duff	51 Tel.	3,	Bakhtiari road. Refers to Part V, No. 251. He may use his discretion with regard to corresponding with Chiefs. Should utilize presence of three principal Chiefs to settle accounts with Company. Agrees that Vice-Consul need not visit .. ..	11
14	To India Office ..	..	3,	Situation in Persia. Refers to Part V, No. 250. Agrees with Secretary of State for India that papers relating to, should be laid before Committee of Imperial Defence .. ..	11
15	To Persian Transport Company	..	3,	Ahwaz-Ispahan road. Refers to Part V, Nos. 171 and 204. Traffic on road reported commenced and condition not worse than usual. Mr. Grant Duff will endeavour to effect a settlement of the various outstanding questions with the Bakhtiari Chiefs .. ..	12
16	India Office ..	..	4,	Seistan riots. Telegram from Viceroy, dated 3rd April. Details of. Demands of the rioters .. ..	12
17	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	88 Tel.	4,	Afghan frontier quarantine posts. Refers to No. 12. Sanitary Council and Customs Department know nothing of establishment of. Has warned Customs Department that establishment of might cause complications with Afghanistan. Dispatch of Russian doctor to Birjand confirmed. Deprecates representations to Persian Government unless Russian intention to establish cordon is proved. Action likely to raise Perso-Afghan frontier question would be impolitic .. ..	13
18	India Office ..	..	4,	Loan to Governor of Kain. Refers to Part V, No. 248. Concurs in view that decision not to guarantee loan should be adhered to .. ..	14
19	" ..	..	5,	Seistan riots. Viceroy's telegram, dated 4th April. Russians announce that 600 Cossacks will be dispatched. Indian Government will send arms to Consul .. ..	14
20	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	90 Tel.	5,	Quarantine posts: Birjand. Reuter's telegrams report that Russian Legation states that cordon is being formed at. Russian Chargé d'Affaires says this is a mistake; that Cossacks are being sent from Tehran for service in Khorassan .. ..	15
21	" ..	91 Tel.	5,	Quarantine posts. Refers to No. 17. Mushir-ed-Dowleh informs of establishment of, due to pressure by Russian Government, and assures that no Russian troops will be allowed to enter Persian territory. His Majesty's Government represented at Birjand by doctor .. ..	15
22	To Mr. E. Grant Duff	53 Tel.	5,	Loan to Governor of Kain. Refers to Part V, No. 236. Sees no reason to modify opinion expressed in Part III. No. 36 .. ..	15
23	" ..	53	5,	Kum-Sultanabad road. Transmits letter from Persian Transport Company relative to refusal of Persian Government to permit levying of tolls on (see No. 10) ..	15

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
24	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	94 Tel.	Apr. 6, 1906	Seistan riots. Proposes demands for compensation and punishment of ringleaders. Feeling of people more against Government than Europeans. His Majesty's Consul only can judge of necessity for dispatch of Indian troops or further plague measures .. .. .	16
25	" ..	96 Tel.	7,	Seistan riots. Troops sent from Meshed by Persian Government, but will be relieved by Tehran Cossacks. Mushir-ed-Dowleh assures that leaders will be punished. Dispatch of Indian troops will probably greatly annoy Persian Government, but might have salutary effect. If force is sent, it should be an adequate one ..	16
26	To Mr. E. Grant Duff	51 Tel.	7,	Seistan riots. Refers to No. 24. Should impress on Persian Government that they will be held responsible ..	16
27	To India Office ..	Confidential	7,	Quarantine posts on Afghan frontier. Refers to No. 12. Concurs in view that it is undesirable to make representations to Persian Government concerning formation of Russian cordon. Transmits No. 17 ..	17
28	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	97 Tel.	8,	Turco-Persian frontier dispute. Repeats telegram from His Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez. Turkish Vice-Consul at Urmi reports to Consul-General that Turkish Lieutenant and soldiers have entered Dasht and enrolled 700 Kurds as irregular cavalry .. ..	17
29	India Office ..	..	9,	Seistan riots. Transmits telegram to Viceroy respecting force for defence of Consulate .. ..	17
30	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	98 Tel.	9,	D'Arcy Concession and Pakhtiaris. Shuja-es-Sultan claims share of profits from land at Marmaten, and asked that second annual instalment be held up pending settlement. On paramount Chief's arrival meeting will be held to discuss oil and road questions. Chiefs have agreed to pay claims for robberies .. ..	18
31	" ..	99 Tel.	9,	Loan. Persian Government have made payment of interest, and promise further instalments .. ..	18
32	To Mr. E. Grant Duff	58 Tel.	9,	Seistan riots. Should ask Viceroy for repetition of his telegram of 4th April and Foreign Office reply of 6th April ..	18
33	India Office ..	..	9,	Seistan riots. Transmits telegram to Viceroy, dated 29th March, requesting information concerning .. ..	18
34	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	100 Tel.	10,	Indo-Persian Parcel Post Convention. Refers to Part II, No. 110. Proposal not refused by Persian Government, but they hope Indian post-offices will allow letters to India from Persians in south to be stamped with Persian stamps .. ..	19
35	" ..	102 Tel.	13,	Seistan Water Award. Refers to No. 51. Mushir-ed-Dowleh writes that Persian Government only accepted arbitration on condition that award should be in agreement with Goldsmid Award. Has asked Mushir-ed-Dowleh to allow Yamin-i-Nizam to communicate objections of Persian Government .. ..	19

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
36	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	103 Tel.	Apr. 14, 1906	Seistan riots. Repeats telegram from Consul in Seistan. Deputy-Governor has no orders to make arrests, and will do nothing unless pressed. Suggests that Mustaufi be ordered to return to city and stay there till settlement is effected. Has replied that demand for punishment and compensation would be premature. Has impressed gravity of situation on Government, and asked them to order Governor to return to city .. ..	19
37	" ..	105 Tel.	15,	Seistan riots. Repeats telegram from Consul. Situation unsatisfactory. Suggests that troops should march straight to Nasrat-abad, or ultimatum be sent to Persian Government. Russians inciting ringleaders. Mushir-ed-Dowleh has ordered Deputy-Governor to return to Nasrat-abad. Suggests that Persian Government should be informed that British troops will be sent to protect Consulate unless steps are taken in a week. British prestige prejudiced by non-punishment of attacks on British officers .. ..	20
38	Major Cox..	2 Commercial	Mar. 18,	Russian trade in the Persian Gulf. Transmits report by Vice-Consul Richards, showing Russian competition with British Shipping Companies .. ..	20
38*	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	68	Mar. 21,	Complaints of Persian Government against his attitude. Refers to Part V, No. 167. Case of the Legation Seraidar .. ..	26*
39	" ..	72	25,	Bahreinis and Koweitis in Persia. Transmits correspondence with Bushire respecting question as to their right to good offices of His Majesty's Consuls ..	27
40	" ..	73	25,	Shiraz. Alleged discourtesy of His Majesty's Consul towards Royal Family. Refers to Part V, No. 239. Transmits correspondence relative to. Complaints originated by Shoa-es-Sultanah, to cause difficulties between His Majesty's Legation and Mushir-ed-Dowleh .. ..	28
41	" ..	74	27,	Imperial Bank of Persia. Refers to Part V, No. 230. Failure of run on. Complicity of Russian Bank. Transmits letters from Chief Manager of Imperial Bank ..	30
42	" ..	75	26,	Attack on Colonel Douglas. Refers to Part V, No. 192. Transmits note to Mushir-ed-Dowleh and reply, and letter to Prince-Governor of Laristan. Fears further representations will have no effect ..	32
43	" ..	80	27,	Labaree murder. Refers to Part V, No. 214. Transmits further correspondence regarding. United States' Government grant request of Persian Government for delay of ten months. Mr. Wratislaw suggests allowing Kurds to take "bait" in United States' Consulate and forgiving them ..	34
44	" ..	81	27,	Beating of witness by Vizier of Fars. Serdar-i-Akram declines to apologize. No probability of settling matter locally. Transmits despatch from Mr. Grahame, inclosing letter to Vazir-i-Makhsus ..	38

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
15	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	82	Mar. 28, 1906	Courts of Justice. Refers to Part V, No. 156. Transmits translation of autograph letters from Shah to Grand Vizier regarding proposed establishment of .. ..	39
46	" " ..	83	28	Events in Persia. Transmits monthly summary of .. ..	40
47	" " ..	84	28,	Bakhtiari road. Transmits correspondence with Chiefs respecting payment of yearly sum of 2,000/. Chiefs agree to Oil Syndicate paying one-fourth of 500/. quarterly .. ..	43
48	" " ..	85	28,	Guards placed on the works of the Oil Syndicate at Marimaten. Transmits correspondence with Grand Vizier. Guards have been replaced .. ..	44
49	" " ..	87	29,	Plague in Seistan. Refers to Part V, No. 218. Transmits report from His Majesty's Consul. Disease not spreading .. ..	45
50	" " ..	88	29,	Turco-Persian frontier. Refers to Part V, No. 238. Persian Commission about to leave to meet Turkish Commission on frontier. Transmits letter from Military Attaché recording interview with Minister of War, who declares Persia has no intention of making war on Turkey .. ..	46
51	" " ..	89	29,	Seistan Water Award. Refers to Part V, Nos. 191 and 199. Transmits note from Persian Government embodying objections to, and note to Persian Government to effect that, if they continue to refuse acceptance, they should submit reasoned appeal to His Majesty's Government .. ..	47
52	" " ..	90	30,	Shiraz. Excitement caused by report of reappointment of Shoa-es-Saltanah to Governorship of Fars. Transmits private letter to Atabeg-i-Azam, which causes return of Prince to Tehran .. ..	50
53	" " ..	91	30	Courts of Justice. Commission appointed to report on means of carrying out reforms. Difficulty of overcoming corruption. Moharrem passed quietly .. ..	51
54	Sir N. O'Connor ..	244 Confidential	Apr. 10,	Turco-Persian frontier dispute. Refers to No. 2. Transmits telegrams reporting Turkish military action and views of authorities at Mosul on. Leaders of parties of aggression and moderation at Constantinople. Irresolution of Sultan .. ..	51
55	India Office ..	..	14,	Quarantine posts on Afghan frontier. Refers to No. 27. Concurs that no representation should be made to Persian Government till definite evidence of Russian intention to form cordon is obtained. Transmits telegram to Government of India .. ..	53
56	" " ..	..	14,	Bahrein. Case of Persian subject who committed offence on British ship at. Refers to Part V, No. 172. Transmits telegrams to and from Government of India relative to .. ..	54
57	" " ..	..	17,	Seistan riots. Transmits telegram from Viceroy. Double company not directed to cross frontier, but available if necessary. Asks that permission be obtained to construct telegraph line to Seistan .. ..	54

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
58	Mr. Whitelaw Reid ..	..	Apr. 18, 1906	Mr. E. Grant Duff's and Mr. Wratistaw's services to Americans in north-west Persia. Appreciation of .. ..	55
59	India Office ..	..	19,	Seistan riots. Refers to No. 37. Concurs in telegram to Mr. E. Grant Duff. Suggests informing him that whole of Robat double company have been ordered to Nasratabad .. ..	55
60	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	108 Tel.	19,	Seistan. Anglo-Russian land dispute in. Repeats telegram from Consul. Land marked out for British trader claimed by Russians and pillars destroyed. Has brought incident to notice of Russian Chargé d'Affaires and Mushir-ed-Dowleh .. ..	56
61	" " ..	110 Tel.	19,	Kuh-i-Malik Siah extension. Persian Government again refuse to grant. .. ..	56
62	" " ..	111 Tel.	19,	Russian road scandals. Russian Minister of Communications has turned back from Julfa. Remainder of Commission expected shortly at Tabreez .. ..	56
63	" " ..	112 Tel.	19,	Turco-Persian frontier dispute. Refers to Part V, No. 238. Persian Government ask what steps His Majesty's Government have taken .. ..	56
64	" " ..	113 Tel.	19,	Land claimed by His Majesty's Government. Mushir-ed-Dowleh informs that Government cannot grant, but will grant reasonable area round Telegraph Department buildings. Reply to Mushir-ed-Dowleh. Suggests that area claimed is larger than necessary .. ..	57
65	To Mr. E. Grant Duff	62 Tel.	19,	Seistan riots. Refers to Nos. 25 and 37. Have Persian troops from Meshed reached Seistan? Is Persian Government strong enough to punish ringleaders? Dispatch of Robat force authorized. Should continue to urge adoption of punitive measures .. ..	57
66	India Office ..	..	19,	Seistan. Refers to No. 57. Sees no reason to depart from instructions given in telegram of 6th April .. ..	57
67	Nil.				
68	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	115 Tel.	21,	Luristan trade route. Repeats telegram from Government of India suggesting that Vice-Consul at Ahwaz should visit Vali of Pusht-i-Kuk and find out his attitude and nature of country. Has replied: Negotiations would lie between His Majesty's Government and local Chiefs. Question is whether His Majesty's Government are prepared to spend money experimentally to increase British influence and trade .. ..	58
69	" " ..	116 Tel.	21,	Seistan riots. Refers to No. 65. Cossacks have received no orders to proceed to Seistan. There is one Persian regiment at Nasratabad. Thinks Government could punish offenders if they chose; they are sending official to investigate. Note has been presented according to instructions .. ..	58
70	" " ..	117 Tel.	22,	Anglo-Russian land dispute in Seistan. Refers to No. 60. Repeats telegram from Consul giving further details of Russian action .. ..	58



No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
71	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	118 Tel.	Apr. 22, 1906	Seistan riots. Mushir-ed-Dowleh asked names of persons who attacked Consulate. Has replied it was duty of Persian Government to arrest offenders, but Consul would furnish names if possible .. ..	59
72	" ..	119 Tel.	22,	Turco-Persian frontier dispute. Situation becoming serious. People greatly excited. Mushir-ed-Dowleh ordered to speak to British and Russian Chargés d'Affaires. Turks decline to withdraw troops. Persian Government ask advice as to what military measures they should take, and inquire whether there is any further hope of intervention by Great Britain and Russia .. ..	59
73	Mr. Spring-Rice ..	271	16,	Imperial Bank of Persia. Run organized by Russian Banque des Prêts on. Transmits private letter to Count Lamsdorff. Has also taken measures to bring incident to knowledge of President of Council ..	59
74	Sir N. O'Connor ..	260 Confidential	17,	Turco-Persian frontier. No progress in negotiations. Turkish military movements. Russian Ambassador told Izzet Pasha Russian Government could not admit Turkish pretensions. Transmits telegram from Major Ramsay and despatch from Mr. Jewett .. ..	60
75	" ..	265	18,	Turco-Persian frontier. Refers to No 74. Transmits note from Persian Ambassador expressing thanks of Persian Government for aid given by His Majesty's Embassy ..	62
76	" ..	65 Tel.	23,	Turco-Persian frontier dispute. Refers to No. 72. Has made fresh representations. Grand Vizier denies statements of Persian Government. After consultation with M. Zinoview, adopts view that Persian Government should avoid conflict, and propose to send Commissioners to Passova on condition that Turkish troops shall be withdrawn on their arrival. Significance of German Ambassador's interest in question .. ..	62
77	Mr. Spring-Rice ..	72 Tel.	23,	British action at Henjam. Reports receipt of letter from Count Lamsdorff and proposed reply. Protection of Arabs and question of Persian sovereignty ..	63
78	India Office ..	..	23,	Seistan disturbances. Transmits telegraphic correspondence with Government of India ..	63
79	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	120 Tel.	24,	Plague in Seistan. Repeats telegram to Seistan respecting measures which have been taken .. ..	64
80	To Mr Spring-Rice ..	184	24,	Turco-Persian frontier, Henjam, and Seistan. Interview with Russian Ambassador. Consultation as to measures to be taken in regard to Turco-Persian frontier. Told Count Benckendorff that British ship's presence at Henjam has no political significance, and hoped Russian Government would send conciliatory instructions to Agents at Seistan .. ..	64
81	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	123 Tel.	25,	Turco-Persian frontier. Danger to Christians. Suggests Turkish and Persian Governments be warned that they will be held responsible for lives of British subjects .. ..	64

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
82	To India Office ..	..	Apr. 25, 1906	Seistan. Refers to No. 66. Concurs, but points out that Persian Government were originally informed that British troops were sent to render assistance if required .. ..	65
83	India Office ..	..	25,	Seistan riots. Transmits telegram to Viceroy repeating No. 65 .. ..	65
84	To Sir N. O'Connor ..	52 Tel.	26,	Turco-Persian frontier. Danger to Christians on. He may act as suggested in No. 81. Persian Government will receive similar warning .. ..	66
85	To Mr. E. Grant Duff	67 Tel.	26,	Turco-Persian frontier. Danger to Christians on. Approves action suggested in No. 81. Porte will receive similar warning ..	66
86	Memorandum communicated to Persian Minister ..	..	26,	Beating of witness by Vizier of Fars. Refers to Part V, No. 134. Asks whether further explanations have reached Persian Legation. Expresses His Majesty's Government's surprise that no apology is offered ..	66
87	To Mr. E. Grant Duff	64	26,	Fars. Refers to No. 52. Rumoured re-appointment of Shoa-es-Saltaneh as Governor-General of. Approves action ..	66
88	To Mr. Whitelaw Reid ..	..	26,	Mr. E. Grant Duff's and Mr. Wratistlaw's services to Americans. Acknowledges No. 58. Will convey thanks of United States' Government to them .. ..	66
89	To Mr. Spring-Rice ..	185	27,	Imperial Bank of Persia. Refers to No. 73. Run organized by Russian Bank on. Approves action and communication to Count Lamsdorff .. ..	67
90	To India Office ..	..	27,	Offence committed by Persian subject on British ship at Bahrein. Refers to No. 56. Question of jurisdiction. Requests further details of case from Government of India ..	67
91	India Office ..	..	28,	Plague in Seistan. Transmits telegram from Viceroy. Situation unsatisfactory. Recommends reconstitution of Sanitary Council and other measures .. ..	67
92	Sir N. O'Connor ..	70 Tel. Confidential	28,	Turco-Persian frontier dispute. Conversation with M. Zinoview as to suggestion that Porte should be invited to submit to mediation. Told M. Zinoview Porte would probably refuse, but that Porte might be warned of danger of their policy. Concentration of troops at Vezue. Grave disorders are probable among Kurdish tribes .. ..	68
93	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	124 Tel.	28,	Plague in Seistan. Refers to Nos. 79 and 91. Concurs as to reconstruction of Sanitary Council .. ..	68
94	Sir N. O'Connor ..	278 Confidential	24,	German policy in Persia. Refers to No. 76. Interest in Turco-Persian frontier dispute shown by German Ambassador. Has suggested to Persian Ambassador that he should secure support of other Powers as well as of Germany. Necessity of reaching Agreement with Russia as soon as possible .. ..	69
95	Mr. Spring-Rice ..	281	24,	Imperial Bank of Persia, run on Transmits Count Lamsdorff's reply to letter inclosed in No. 73. M. Grube denies complicity of Russian Bank. M. Hartwig hopes incident is at an end .. ..	70

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
96	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	126 Tel.	Apr. 30, 1906	Bakhtiari road. Chiefs have promised to repair it .. .. .	71
97	To Sir N. O'Connor ..	55 Tel.	30,	Turco-Persian frontier dispute. Refers to No. 92. Has suggested to Count Benckendorff that question might be referred to arbitration of Great Britain and Russia, but better not to risk a rebuff .. .. .	71
98	To Mr. Spring-Rice ..	190	30,	Seistan Water Award. Refers to No. 3. Approves terms of letter to M. Hartwig communicating Award to Russian Government .. .. .	72
99	India Office ..	..	May 1,	Trade routes in South-Eastern Persia, insecurity of. Refers to Part II, No. 86. Transmits letter from Government of India. Proposals for improvement of situation. Will Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs approach Treasury, with view to accepting half the expense involved by proposed measures? .. .. .	72
100	" ..	..	2,	Luristan trade route. Refers to No. 68. Transmits telegram from Government of India, repeating telegram to Mr. E. Grant Duff, suggesting that Vice-Consul at Ahwaz should visit Vali of Pusht-i-Koh. Proposes not to move in matter at present .. .. .	75
101	" ..	..	3,	Bahrein, offence committed by Persian subject on British ship at. Refers to No. 56. Transmits telegram to Viceroy requesting further details. It is undesirable to raise question of jurisdiction at present moment .. .. .	76
102	" ..	..	4,	Plague in Seistan. Transmits telegram from Viceroy. Arrival of Russian doctor at Birjand. Recommends sending British doctor .. .. .	76
103	Consul-General Sir W. Ward ..	1	2,	German steam-ship service to Persian Gulf. Report of intention of Hamburg-American Line to establish service to Persian Gulf is true. Competent persons at Hamburg of opinion that project is not certain of realization. Transmits extract from "Hamburger Nachrichten" relative to .. .. .	77
104	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	128 Tel.	5,	Birjand quarantine. Repeats telegram to India, to effect that Persian Government has been asked to furnish Captain Watson with quarantine powers equal to those of Russian doctor .. .. .	78
105	" ..	129 Tel.	5,	Seistan riots. No signs of steps being taken to arrest ringleaders .. .. .	78
106	To Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	73 Tel.	5,	Henjam. Refers to No. 64. He should propose to Persian Government that ground be accurately surveyed with view to settlement of question. If Government agree, Government of India will be instructed to send surveyor .. .. .	78
107	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	130 Tel.	6,	Turco-Persian frontier. Government have apparently acquiesced in non-withdrawal of Turkish troops, and are sending Commission to the frontier .. .. .	78

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
108	Sir N. O'Connor ..	288	Apr. 27, 1906	Turco-Persian frontier dispute. Refers to No. 74. Has discussed the question at length with his Russian colleague, but without arriving at any definite decisions .. .. .	79
109	" ..	294	May 1,	Turco-Persian frontier dispute. Refers to No. 108. Progress of negotiations between Persian Ambassador and the Porte. Agreement as to appointing a Commission to examine the question on the spot .. .. .	79
110	" ..	302	2,	Turco-Persian frontier dispute. Refers to No. 109. Movements of Turkish troops to Lahidjan district. Transmits report by Vice-Consul at Diarbekir .. .. .	81
111	Question asked in the House of Commons (Mr. Hart Davies) ..	..	7,	Telegraph station at Bunder Abbas. Difficulties with regard to establishment of. His Majesty's Representative at Bushire is hopeful of obtaining satisfactory settlement .. .. .	83
112	India Office ..	..	7,	Urumia affairs. Refers to No. 81. Transmits telegram to Viceroy informing him that instructions have been sent to His Majesty's Representatives at Constantinople and Tehran to act as suggested .. .. .	84
113	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	131 Tel. Secret	9,	Rumoured German loan. Conditions of .. .. .	84
114	To India Office ..	..	9,	Luristan road. Refers to No. 100. Concurs that it would be better not to move in the matter at present time .. .. .	84
115	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	132 Tel.	10,	Turco-Persian frontier. Arrival of reinforcements for the Turkish troops near Urmi .. .. .	85
116	Consul-General Sir W. Ward ..	2	9,	German steam-ship line to Persian Gulf. Refers to No. 103. Hamburg-American Company has notified that it intends to start a monthly service from 1st August next .. .. .	85
117	To Mr. Spring-Rice ..	213	11,	Loan to Persian Government and Bagdad Railway. Conversation with Count Benckendorff. His Majesty's Government postponed proposals for agreement with Russia on account of change of Russian Government. Report that Germany is negotiating a loan to Persia. Russian Government should consider steps to be taken. Suggests to Count Benckendorff joint loan by Russia and Great Britain. Time has come for Russian Government to come to decision as to participation in Bagdad Railway .. .. .	85
118	Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company ..	..	11,	Karun River. Action of a Persian called the Mouin in plying a steamer on the river against the interests of the Company. Requests His Majesty's Government to urge Sheikh of Mohammerah to have no dealings with him .. .. .	86
119	India Office ..	..	12,	Plague in Seistan. Transmits telegrams from Viceroy concerning quarantine arrangements and various disturbances .. .. .	87
120	Mr. Spring-Rice ..	89 Tel.	12,	German loan to Persia. Russian Government have heard of M. Naus' conversations with German Ambassador at Constantinople .. .. .	88

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
121	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	133 Tel.	May 12, 1906	Birjand quarantine. Repeats telegram to India, to effect that Persian Government have no objection to dispatch of British doctor .. .. .	88
122	" ..	134 Tel.	13,	Assault on British officers by servants of Governor of Kashan. Has demanded apology and compensation .. .. .	88
123	" ..	135 Tel.	13,	Attack on Indian sowars. Repeats telegram to India, pointing out that event occurred on 18th March and no report had been received .. .. .	89
124	" ..	97	Apr. 21,	Luristan trade route. Refers to No. 68. Observations on advisability of opening up. Transmits despatch from Consul-General at Bushire and Memorandum by Military Attaché .. .. .	89
125	" ..	101 Confidential	22,	Political situation in Persia. Transmits Memorandum by Mr. Churchill of conversation with a prominent Mollah.. .. .	94
126	" ..	102	22,	Kum-Sultanabad road. Transmits answer to Report of the Mohandes-ul-Mamalik as to the condition of, giving steps taken by Persian Transport Company for the improvement of .. .. .	95
127	" ..	103	23,	Turco-Persian frontier. Transmits despatch from Consul-General at Tabreez respecting incursion of Turkish troops .. .. .	96
128	" ..	104	23,	Seistan Water Award. Refers to No. 35. Transmits note from Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs stating that his Government only accepted Arbitration Commission and final reference to His Majesty's Secretary of State on understanding that decision should agree with the Goldsmid Award .. .. .	97
129	" ..	105	23,	Postal arrangements. Refers to No. 34. Transmits note from Mushir-ed-Dowleh regarding proposed postal arrangement as to the Persian Gulf ports .. .. .	98
130	" ..	107	23,	Russian Road Commission. Refers to No. 62. Transmits despatch from Consul-General at Tabreez announcing arrival of .. .. .	98
131	" ..	108 Confidential	23,	Perso-Afghan frontier. Transmits correspondence regarding .. .. .	99
132	" ..	110	23,	Political situation in Persia. Transmits despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez recording a conversation with the Imam Jumei of that town .. .. .	104
133	" ..	111	23,	Attitude of the Valiahd. Transmits despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez recording improvement in .. .. .	104
134	" ..	112	24,	Urmi case. Refers to No. 43. Transmits despatch from Mr. Wratislaw relative to situation of American missionaries .. .. .	106
135	" ..	113 Confidential	24,	Turco-Persian frontier dispute. Transmits letter from Military Attaché recording conversation with Turkish Military Attaché. Details of Turkish troops in Lahijan district. Nominal and real motives of Turkish action. Turks do not intend to withdraw. Annual summer camp outside Tehran to be held two months earlier than usual .. .. .	107

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
136	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	114 Secret	Apr. 24, 1906	General situation. Return of M. Naus; interview with him. He is struck by change for the worse in, and is convinced that Grand Vizier is plotting against, Shah, and intends to place Shoa-es-Saltaneh on throne. Presumes that, in case of Palace revolution, His Majesty's Government would support Valiahd .. .. .	108
137	" ..	117	25,	Riots in Seistan. Transmits despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Seistan, also note to Mushir-ed-Dowleh, giving names of ringleaders, and pointing out that it is the duty of the Persian Government to discover and punish them .. .. .	108
138	" ..	118	25,	Monthly summary of events. Transmits .. .. .	112
139	" ..	119	25,	Turco-Persian frontier. Refers to No. 81. Transmits despatch from Consul-General at Tabreez regarding serious situation on, especially in district between Souj Boulak and Urmi. Suggests that His Majesty's Government should warn Turkish and Persian Governments of responsibility for safety of British subjects .. .. .	116
140	" ..	120	25,	Seistan. Anglo-Russian land dispute. Refers to No. 60. Transmits notes addressed by him to Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs and to Russian Chargé d'Affaires calling attention to action of Russian telegraph clerks .. .. .	116
141	" ..	121	25,	Turco-Persian frontier. Transmits note to Persian Government informing that British and Russian Ambassadors at Constantinople are acting in concert with Persian Ambassador. Has informed Minister for Foreign Affairs that His Majesty's Government is not inclined to take further action owing to unconciliatory attitude of Persian Government on outstanding questions .. .. .	117
142	" ..	122	26,	Plague in Seistan. Refers to Part V, No. 218. Transmits despatch from His Majesty's Consul showing steps taken to meet Russian intrigues. Transmits note from Administrator of Customs showing that Persian Government have not taken quarantine measures against Afghanistan .. .. .	118
143	" ..	124	26,	Seistan riots. Refers to Nos. 26 and 65. No attempt yet made to arrest ringleaders. Officials have left Nasratabad. Has proposed that prominent Mollah be appointed to Tehran and Seistan Sanitary Councils. Kuh-i-Malik Siah extension again refused. Persian Cossacks to leave for Seistan 26th April. Transmits correspondence .. .. .	120
144	Sir N. O'Connor ..	324	May 9,	Turco-Persian frontier. Refers to No. 110. Transmits telegram from Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Persian Ambassador at Constantinople informing him of approaching departure of Persian Commissioners .. .. .	122
145	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	136 Tel.	14,	Rumoured German loan. Refers to No. 113. Grand Vizier denies any such negotiations, but says Government must have financial assistance .. .. .	123

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
146	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	137 Tel.	May 14, 1906	Anglo-Russian land dispute in Seistan. Refers to Part V, No. 191. Repeats telegram to His Majesty's Consul at Seistan, to effect that Russian Consul has been instructed to communicate with him ..	123
147	" " ..	138 Tel.	14,	Seistan riots. Special official has left Tehran to deal with question ..	123
148	" " ..	139 Tel. Secret	15,	Illness of Shah. Has had a stroke of paralysis. Effect not yet certain ..	123
149	To Treasury ..	..	15,	Trade routes in South-East Persia. Insecurity of. Transmits No. 99. Sir E. Grey is not disposed to recommend immediate establishment of proposed three Consular Agencies, but suggests temporary increase of Kennan Consular guard ..	124
150	To India Office ..	..	15,	Situation in Seistan. Refers to No. 119. Considers entry of British troops into Persia should be avoided. Doubtful whether the Persian forces could punish the rioters (see Nos. 105 and 166) ..	124
151	India Office ..	..	16,	Second British signaller for the Seistan telegraph line. Transmits telegram from Government of India stating necessity for ..	125
152	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	140 Tel.	16,	Parcel Post Convention. Refers to No. 129. His Majesty's Consul-General at Bushire telegraphs that only local letters must have Indian stamps. Has informed Grand Vizier ..	125
153	To India Office ..	..	16,	Attack on British officer at Kashan. Transmits No. 122, proposing to approve action taken by Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	125
154	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	141 Tel.	17,	Illness of Shah. Mushir-ed-Dowleh admits seriousness of ..	126
155	" " ..	142 Tel.	17,	German school at Tehran. Mushir-ed-Dowleh states scheme will be carried through ..	126
156	To Mr. Spring-Rice ..	91 Tel. Secret	17,	Illness of Shah. Instructions to inform Russian Government, and express readiness to act with them if necessary to support Valiahd ..	126
157	To Sir N. O'Connor ..	191	17,	Turco-Persian frontier. Refers to Nos. 108 and 109. Approves language to Russian and Persian Ambassadors ..	126
158	To India Office ..	..	17,	Bahrainis and Koweitis in Persia. Transmits No. 39. Proposes to instruct His Majesty's Legation and Consular officers to continue to exercise good offices on behalf of servants of British subjects ..	126
159	Mr. Spring-Rice ..	97 Tel.	18,	Illness of Shah. Refers to No. 156. Proposals of Anglo-Russian co-operation, with a view to insuring succession of Valiahd ..	127
160	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	143 Tel.	18,	Turco-Persian frontier. Persian Commissioner has started for Pas-veh ..	127
161	India Office ..	..	18,	Second British telegraph signaller for Meshed. Refers to No. 151. Prepared to sanction proposal. Man already available ..	127

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
162	India Office ..	..	May 18, 1906	Situation in Seistan. Refers to No. 150. Concurs in proposed instructions to Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	127
163	" " ..	..	18,	Assault on a British officer. Refers to No. 153. Concurs in proposal to approve action of His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires ..	128
164	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	144 Tel.	19,	Illness of Shah. Refers to No. 156. Proposes to advise Valiahd to start for Tehran. Shah unfit for business ..	128
165	To Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	78 Tel.	19,	Kashan incident. Refers to No. 122. Approves action ..	128
166	" " ..	79 Tel.	19,	Seistan riots. Refers to Nos. 105 and 119. Dispatch of British troops, except for protection, would be undesirable ..	128
167	" " ..	80 Tel.	19,	Health of Shah. Refers to No. 164. Should await instructions before taking action proposed ..	129
168	India Office ..	..	19,	Possibility of disturbances in Persia. Transmits correspondence respecting ..	129
169	" " ..	..	19,	Luristan trade route. Refers to No. 100. Transmits telegram to Viceroy suspending action ..	130
170	" " ..	..	19,	Seistan riots. Refers to Nos. 105 and 119. Transmits telegram to the Viceroy, dated 17th May, relative to punishment of rioters ..	130
171	" " ..	..	22,	Health of the Shah. Transmits telegram to Viceroy relative to measures about to be taken to insure succession of Valiahd ..	131
171A	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	145 Tel.	23,	Plague in Birjand. His Majesty's Consul in Seistan reports ..	131*
171B	" " ..	147 Tel.	23,	Payment of troops in event of death of Shah. 10,000L. would probably suffice ..	131*
172	India Office ..	..	23,	Bahrainis and Koweitis in Persia. Refers to No. 158. Concurs in Foreign Office proposal ..	131
173	" " ..	..	23,	Proposed loan to Valiahd. Refers to No. 171. Transmits telegram to Viceroy relative to ..	132
174	To India Office ..	..	24,	Second telegraph signaller at Meshed. Refers to No. 161. Concurs in necessity for ..	132
175	Sir N. O'Connor ..	353 Secret	20,	Rumoured German loan. Conversation with Persian Ambassador, who expresses gratification at British support in frontier dispute. Denies knowledge of German loan, but M. Naus had frequent interviews with new German Minister. Russian Ambassador making inquiries ..	132
176	Mr. Spring-Rice ..	329	24,	Anglo-Russian relations. Conversation with Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs on question of joint support of Valiahd. Question of participation in Bagdad Railway, and attitude of Germany. Conversation with French Ambassador. Observations made by German Ambassador to M. Izvolsky ..	133

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
177	Question asked in the House of Lords (Lord Reay)	..	May 28, 1906	Turco-Persian frontier dispute. Negotiations for a settlement proceeding. Outline of .. .. .	135
177*	India Office ..	..	28,	Loan to Valiahd. Refers to No. 173. Transmits telegraphic correspondence with Government of India respecting ..	135*
178	Persian Transport Company ..	..	28,	Bakhtiari Chiefs. Transmits correspondence relative to conditions under which a loan might be granted to .. ..	135
179	India Office ..	..	29,	Additional signaller at Meshed. Refers to No. 151. Transmits telegram to Viceroy approving appointment of .. ..	137
180	To Mr. E. Grant Duff	86	29,	Babreinis and Koweitis in Persia. Refers to No. 39. His Majesty's Consular officers should continue to exercise good offices on behalf of servants of British subjects; but action to be limited to good offices unless persons are under British protection .. ..	137
181	" "	87	June 1,	Luristan trade route. Refers to No. 124. Has been decided that proposal should not be taken up for the present .. ..	138
182	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	150 Tel.	2,	Mollah agitation. A general riot threatened if Mollah's demands not granted. Shah's health reported worse .. ..	138
183	To Mr. E. Grant Duff	82 Tel.	2,	Bakhtiari road. Refers to No. 97. Condition reported bad. Should obtain settlement of outstanding questions with Chiefs .. ..	138
184	To Persian Transport Company ..	..	5,	Bakhtiari Chiefs. Refers to No. 178. His Majesty's Government could not guarantee such a loan. Suggests Chiefs might arrange with Bank of Persia .. ..	138
185	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	151 Tel.	6,	Situation in Tehran. Refers to No. 182. No disturbance so far. Shah better, but still unable to transact business. Condition of country becoming rapidly worse .. ..	139
186	India Office ..	..	9,	Loan to Valiahd. Refers to No. 177*. Expresses willingness, under the circumstances, to advance a sum not exceeding 50,000 <i>l.</i> from Indian revenues .. ..	139
187	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	125	May 1,	Proposed tour of His Majesty's Consul-General at Meshed on the Khorassan frontier. In view of the fact that Russian policy is unchanged, there should be no reason for consulting their susceptibilities .. ..	139
188	" "	131 Confidential	20,	Ispahan-Ahwaz road. Refers to Part V, No. 204. Discussion with Chiefs and Messrs. Lynch's agent about upkeep of .. ..	141
189	" "	134	21,	Turco-Persian frontier. Refers to No. 85. Transmits note to Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs declaring that Persian Government will be held responsible for British lives, and reply evading responsibility .. ..	143
190	" "	135 Secret	21,	Persian finances. Contract signed between Persian Government and Caspian Sea fisheries for advance payment of royalties, in contravention to Agreement with Imperial Bank .. ..	144

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
191	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	140	May 22, 1906	Outstanding British claims. Refers to No. 141. A special Mamur has been appointed to deal with. Transmits note to Persian Government enumerating .. ..	146
192	" "	141	22,	Nasratabad riot. Refers to No. 143. Transmits two notes addressed to Persian Government demanding compensation and adding two names to the list of instigators .. ..	149
193	" "	142 Confidential	22,	Rumoured German loan. Refers to No. 146. Rumoured conditions of. Increasing interest of Germany in Persia .. ..	150
194	" "	143	23,	Monthly summary of events .. ..	150
195	" "	145 Confidential	23,	Illness of Shah. Refers to No. 148. Has caused a standstill in Government business. Attitude of Grand Vizier. Transmits Memorandum by Dr. Scott .. ..	155
196	" "	146	23,	Reform movement. Refers to Part V, No. 155. Discussion by the Ministers. Serious reforms urged by Ehtesham-es-Sultaneh, and opposed by the Minister of the Court .. ..	156
197	" "	156 Tel.	June 11,	Shiraz disturbances. Merchants refuse to leave British Consulate unless their grievances are redressed by Persian Government .. ..	157
198	" "	157 Tel.	11,	Shiraz disturbances. Ala-ed-Dowleh has been appointed Governor-General of Fars .. ..	157
199	" "	158 Tel.	12,	Meshed-Seistan telegraph line. Russians reported to have moved wire and battery to their own office .. ..	158
200	" "	159 Tel.	12,	Garrison at Robat. Russian Minister inquires whether there has been any reinforcements in .. ..	158
201	To Mr. E. Grant Duff	83 Tel.	14,	Loan to Valiahd. Refers to Nos. 159 and 171 <i>a</i> . In event of Shah's death Valiahd will probably be supplied with sufficient money by Imperial Bank. Should he require more, His Majesty's Government are prepared to advance up to 50,000 <i>l.</i> .. ..	158
201*	India Office ..	..	16,	Quarantine on Perso-Afghan frontier. Refers to No. 55. Transmits telegram from Viceroy. Captain Watson has been instructed to proceed to Birjand .. ..	158*
202	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	161 Tel.	16,	Shiraz disturbances. Persian Government cannot or will not take adequate steps to restore order. Considers strong representations should be made .. ..	158
203	Mr. Whitehead ..	171	18,	Alleged German projects. Rumours that Germany is seeking railway concessions in Persia and islands in the Gulf have led to rejoinders in the semi-official press .. ..	159
204	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	163 Tel.	18,	Shiraz disturbances. Ala-ed-Dowleh has been given full powers with regard to Fars affairs .. ..	159
205	To Mr. E. Grant Duff	94	18,	Turco-Persian frontier. Refers to No. 189. Responsibility of Persian Government for lives of British subjects. Approves action .. ..	160
206	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	164 Tel.	20,	Shiraz disturbances. New Governor-General left Tehran to redress grievances .. ..	160



No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
207	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	165 Tel. Secret	June 20, 1906	Alleged conspiracy to put the Shoa-es-Sultaneh on the throne. Valiahd suspects His Majesty's Government favour it. Inquires whether he should instruct His Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez to inform Valiahd confidentially of it ..	160
208	To India Office ..	..	20,	Russo-Persian frontier. Transmits No. 187. Suggests that Major Sykes should be instructed not to proceed on his proposed tour .. .. .	160
209	To Mr. E. Grant Duff	85 Tel.	21,	Succession to Persian Throne. Refers to No. 207. Any further communication to Valiahd undesirable at present ..	161
210	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	167 Tel.	22,	Turco-Persian frontier. Transmits message from Persian Government complaining of Turkish action, and proposing, if Turkish Commission does not arrive in three weeks, to give Porte ten days in which to send it .. .. .	161
211	" ..	168 Tel.	22,	Shiraz disturbances. Local Chief Mollah has ordered people to evacuate Consulate garden .. .. .	161
212	To Mr. E. Grant Duff	86 Tel.	23,	Bakhtiari road. Refers to No. 188. Suggested tour by His Majesty's Consul at Ahwaz authorized .. .. .	161
213	Sir A. Nicolson ..	127 Tel.	25,	Rumoured loans. Has told Minister for Foreign Affairs that Persian Government were pretending they were about to receive a loan from Russia, but that His Majesty's Government did not believe such reports .. .. .	162
214	India Office ..	..	25,	Tehran-Khanikin telegraph line. Transmits note by Director-General of Indo-European Telegraph Department on German projects in connection with .. .. .	162
215	Mr. E. Grant Duff ..	171 Tel.	30,	Yezd incident. Reports. Thinks Consular guards should be increased. Could strong representations be made to Persian Charge d'Affaires? .. .. .	163

## ERRATUM.

Page 125, No. 153, line 3. For telegram referred to, see No. 122.

CONFIDENTIAL.

## Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Persia.

PART VI.

[11150]

No. 1.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 1.)*

(No. 85.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, April 1, 1906.

His Majesty's Consul-General at Bushire telegraphs as follows, 31st March :—

"On the 29th March the Arab Sheikh at Henjam sent twenty-four armed Arabs during the afternoon into the limits of the Indo-European Telegraph Department to make good their repeated protests against the action of the Customs representative in commencing building operations. The Customs representative, who is an excitable young man, seized a rifle and prepared to fire, and it was only with difficulty that the Arabs were restrained by the Assistant Superintendent of Telegraph Department from doing violence to him pending the arrival that night of His Majesty's ship 'Fox.' The Sheikh, with a following of 100 armed Arabs, had an interview yesterday morning with the Commander of His Majesty's ship 'Fox,' who reports that he was under control, though noisy."

Following also received from His Majesty's Consul-General at Bushire in continuation of above :—

"The Sheikh complained that no definite answer to his representations to me had been received. The Arabs refuse to allow Persians to hoist Persian flag or erect any building, and demand the removal of six Persians now resident on the island. It is difficult under these circumstances for us to delay making a definite communication to the Arabs, but could we not inform the Persian Government that, while we recognize their nominal sovereignty over the island politically, we are obliged, by the necessity of considering the safety of our staff and in view of the past history of these Arabs, to insist that the *status quo* be maintained as far as the Arab village is concerned—i.e., that no customs duty nor other form of taxation be levied, and that Persian officials exercise no interference.

"At present the property and lives of our telegraph staff are not in danger, but it will, in all probability, be found unsafe to leave the station without a guard or a ship for some time to come if we make an entirely unfavourable communication to the Arabs, unless results to them of our reoccupation are mitigated in some such way as that suggested, for the Arabs will bitterly resent our action.

"If, however, it is determined that there is no alternative to informing the Arabs that we consider them completely under the jurisdiction of Persia, then I think that, rather than leave the Arabs to be coerced by Persian troops, we should ourselves take the necessary steps, by locating a ship or guard, for the maintenance of order. Such a course would be less damaging to our prestige.

"I expect the Admiral here to-morrow, and he is to remain till the 5th April.

"(Addressed Tehran and repeated to Calcutta.)"

[1647]

B

The events referred to in the former of the above telegrams were communicated to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, and his Excellency sent orders through the Customs Department to suspend the building operations. I propose, in accordance with Consul-General's suggestion, and subject to telegraphic sanction from you, to try and arrange with Persian Government to allow Arab village to remain in *statu quo*. I have asked Bushire to furnish me with particulars of the exact measurements of the limits of the Telegraph Concession, and I am doing what I can to effect a satisfactory settlement of this question.

Negotiations are rendered very difficult by the fact that the Shah is constantly absent from Tehran.

[11234]

No. 2.

*Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 2.)*

(No. 197.)

Sir,

*Constantinople, March 26, 1906.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 188 of the 20th instant, on the subject of the Turco-Persian frontier dispute, I have the honour to report that the Persian Ambassador called to-day and left with me a copy of the telegram, herewith inclosed, from his Government, on which he desired to have my opinion before replying.

I said that I did not think it advisable at the present moment to suggest the appointment of Anglo-Russian Commissioners; that the proposal was not likely to be accepted by the Turks; and that it was calculated, moreover, to prevent their consenting to the more pressing demand for the appointment of a Turco-Persian Commission.

The intervention of England and Russia was in no way compromised by a dual Commission, and, in fact, the two mediating Powers were only justified in interfering in case of disagreement between Turkey and Persia.

As regarded point 3 in the telegram, I thought his Excellency should continue to insist upon the withdrawal of the Ottoman troops from Passova before dispatching Persian Commissioners to carry out local inquiry with Turkish Commissioners.

Prince Riza Khan said that the advice given him on this subject by the Russian Ambassador, whom he had seen before calling upon me, was to the same effect as that which I had just tendered.

He added that, acting on the suggestion of the Grand Vizier, he was sending a copy of the Anglo-Russian frontier map of 1865 to the Chief Turkish Commissioner.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 2.

*Mushir-ed-Dowleh to Persian Minister at Constantinople.*

(Télégraphique.)

*Le 24 Mars, 1906.*

VOS derniers télégrammes ont été soumis à Sa Majesté Impériale. Elle a exprimé sa satisfaction pour vos services et la manière dont vous avez jusqu'ici conduit l'affaire.

2. Dans mon télégramme transmis depuis quelques jours je vous disais de vous concerter avec les Ambassadeurs, et après avoir pris leur avis de déclarer à la Porte que l'impossibilité d'aplanir le différend par la Commission des deux Gouvernements a déjà été prouvée par expérience, et qu'il est nécessaire que la Commission soit composée de Délégués des quatre Puissances. A ce sujet vous n'avez pas répondu jusqu'à présent, et vous ne dites pas dans votre dernier télégramme si vous avez consulté les Ambassadeurs. Il est nécessaire que le Gouvernement Persan soit fixé sur la composition de la Commission.

3. Je lis dans votre dernier télégramme que vous avez répondu officiellement à la Porte qu'en cas de l'évacuation de Passova la Perse enverra une Commission à la

frontière; avez-vous reçu une réponse, et, si non, les Délégués de la Commission qui sont déjà prêts, peuvent-ils partir ou doivent-ils attendre votre réponse?

Les noms des Délégués Persans sont les suivants:—

- (a.) Nazem-ol-Molk.
- (b.) Yamin-Nezam, qui était au Seistan, adjoint au premier.
- (c.) M. de Bruk, Premier Ingénieur.
- (d.) Sadegh Khan, Interprète.
- (e.) Un Mouchi (Secrétaire) et un Médecin.

[11170]

No. 3.

*Mr. Spring-Rice to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 2.)*

(No. 211.)

Sir,

*St. Petersburg, March 27, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith copy of a private letter which I have addressed to M. Hartwig, Minister Designate in Persia, in pursuance of the instructions contained in your despatch No. 124 of the 13th instant, authorizing me to communicate the Seistan Water Award.

I addressed the communication in question to M. Hartwig, as such a course would accentuate the friendly and unofficial nature of the communication, and would be less likely to give rise to an official reply. With the same object, I alluded to the Treaty stipulations under which Persia is bound to refer disputes of this nature to Great Britain.

Colonel Napier will also take an opportunity of explaining the nature of the Award to the military authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CECIL SPRING-RICE

Inclosure in No. 3.

*Mr. Spring-Rice to M. Hartwig.*

*Cher M. Hartwig,*

*Le 25 Mars, 1906.*

VOUS avez bien voulu faire savoir à Sir C. Hardinge et à moi personnellement que, d'après les rapports qui sont parvenus au Gouvernement Impérial, la décision arbitrale du Colonel MacMahon au sujet de la distribution de l'eau du Helmund aurait été communiquée au Karguzar de Seistan à titre confidentiel et à la condition d'observer à son égard le secret le plus absolu, et que ce fait aurait donné lieu à des soupçons au sujet de la bonne foi de cette décision. En même temps, vous avez bien voulu exprimer l'opinion que, dans l'intérêt de nos bonnes relations en Perse, on ferait bien d'user d'une parfaite franchise en traitant cette affaire comme d'autres de pareille nature.

Mon Gouvernement partage cette manière de voir, et pour faire preuve de ses sentiments d'amitié envers le Gouvernement Impérial, et de son désir d'éviter toute apparence de vouloir garder le secret au sujet de la décision arbitrale, j'ai le plaisir de vous informer que j'ai reçu l'autorisation de communiquer le texte de la décision avec la carte explicative, que je viens de recevoir du Foreign Office.

Votre Excellence verra que la décision a été donnée comme complément de l'arbitrage effectué par Sir F. Goldsmid en 1873 en vertu de l'Article VI du Traité de 1857. D'après la décision Goldsmid, "la Perse aura le droit aux eaux nécessaires pour arroser les terres Persanes." Il résulte de l'enquête faite par le Colonel MacMahon que, en matière d'eau, le Seistan souffre plutôt d'un surplus que d'un déficit, et que dans les derniers trente-cinq ans c'est seulement au cours de trois ans que les terres Persanes ont souffert d'un défaut sous ce rapport. Après un calcul approfondi de la quantité d'eau dans le fleuve, le Colonel MacMahon a abouti à la conclusion que le tiers du volume entier d'eau qui entre dans le district de Seistan à Bandar-i-Kamal, suffira pour arroser les terres Persanes actuellement en culture, et fournira en dehors un surplus, en vue de l'extension éventuelle du district arrosé.

Les termes de cet arbitrage ont donné lieu à un malentendu. Bandar-i-Kamal, en territoire Afghan, est le point où le fleuve entre de tout son volume dans le district d'arrosage du Seistan et où les travaux d'irrigation commencent. En conséquence, le Colonel MacMahon a pris ce point pour estimer l'eau nécessaire pour les besoins des



deux parties. Mais la digue de Band-i-Kohat, où est détournée l'eau destinée à l'usage des terrains Persans (c'est-à-dire, le tiers du volume qui passe par le point de Bandar-i-Kamal), est située environ 50 kilom. en aval de Bandar-i-Kamal, et c'est ici que, avant l'arbitrage, on avait l'habitude de calculer la quantité d'eau à partager. On a cru que c'était à Band-i-Kohat (où naturellement le volume d'eau est de beaucoup inférieur à celui du fleuve à Bandar-i-Kamal) que l'eau doit être partagée selon la décision du Colonel MacMahon.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique ne saurait qu'exprimer sa surprise que le Gouvernement Persan, qui, d'après nos rapports, recevra par le partage du Colonel MacMahon une quantité d'eau beaucoup plus considérable qu'auparavant, ait cru devoir protester contre cette décision comme injuste et nuisible aux intérêts Persans.

En vous communiquant ce qui précède, je me permets encore une fois de souligner le fait que le Gouvernement Anglais veut agir en parfaite franchise envers le Gouvernement Russe, étant convaincu qu'une telle franchise est le meilleur moyen d'éviter tout malentendu.

Je dois ajouter que le Colonel MacMahon nie, de la façon la plus catégorique, qu'il ait voulu garder le secret sur les termes de la décision ou qu'il y ait inséré dans les lettres par lesquelles il a fait parvenir cette décision aux Commissaires Persan et Afghan quelque passage que ce fût qui pût donner lieu à une telle supposition.

Veuillez, &c.  
(Signé) CECIL SPRING-RICE.

[11171]

No. 4.

*Mr. Spring-Rice to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 2.)*

(No. 212.)  
Sir,

*St. Petersburg, March 27, 1906.*

AN interesting light on the views taken in Russia as to the possible conditions of an Anglo-Russian understanding is thrown by an article which appears to-day in the "Slovo," a Moderate newspaper with a somewhat anti-English leaning. It states that an arrangement by which England abandoned her pretensions in Persia to her Russian rival would not be an adequate compensation for the surrender by Russia of her interests in Afghanistan and the border Khanates, by which the newspaper in question appears to mean Beluchistan. The "Slovo" states that Russian preponderance in Persia is already an acknowledged and accomplished fact, and that nothing would be gained by Russia by its formal recognition on the part of England. "The confirmation of a fact already recognized on various occasions cannot be considered as an equivalent to the recognition on our part of any sort of exclusive influence of England over Afghanistan, which we have always opposed and which is highly disadvantageous to us, not to speak of the frontier Khanates and the Pamirs."

If such are the views taken by generally well-informed circles in Russia as to the conditions of an understanding with England, it is not to be wondered at if the Russian Government should hesitate in formulating its terms.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) CECIL SPRING-RICE.

[11174]

No. 5.

*Mr. Spring-Rice to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 2.)*

(No. 215. Confidential.)  
Sir,

*St. Petersburg, March 28, 1906.*

I BEG to thank you for the communication of the Memorandum of the Director of Military Operations, dated the 22nd February, relative to the new Russian road from Kazvin to Hamadan.

I venture to submit the following observations:—

Some years ago the Germans possessed a Concession for the construction of a road from Khanikin to Kermanshah, which lapsed owing mainly to the determined opposition of the Russian Legation, which, I believe, threatened the Shah's Government with the most serious consequences if the road were constructed and worked by the Germans.

Should the Anatolian line be continued to Bagdad, and a branch line constructed to the Persian frontier at Khanikin, and the former German Concession for the Kermanshah line be revived, the Germans would control the pilgrim route to Kerbelah, which is the only line in Persia which is certain to pay. The traffic on it would be considerable and constant.

The newly-appointed German Minister to Persia, who, as I hear, will be provided with strong letters of recommendation from the Sultan to the Shah, has been connected for some time with the Deutsche Bank and the Bagdad Railway, on which subject he is considered a specialist. It is not unreasonable to suppose that his mission may be not unconnected with a project for linking up the Bagdad Railway with Persia by means of a road viâ Khanikin. Such a scheme will nearly affect Russian interests in Persia. It will also have a wider significance, for the Russian railway system now extends to Julfa, on the Araxes, and a road is constructed to Tabreez which can be readily converted into a railway. From Tabreez to Hamadan viâ Kazvin, as is pointed out in the Memorandum of the 22nd February, the construction of a railway may be said to be in preparation. The line to Tabreez should be a paying undertaking, as the province tapped is one of considerable fertility. The continuation to Hamadan would not apparently be profitable. But from Hamadan to Bagdad (should a line be constructed) the pilgrim traffic insures the profitable nature of the undertaking.

Compared with the German route to Bagdad (unless the projected irrigation works are completed, which would be the work of years), the Russian route viâ Persia would seem, from the commercial point of view, a more promising undertaking, and one which should prove more attractive to capitalists. Thus, in the race to Bagdad, Russian enterprise might have a reasonable chance of winning, if supported by the necessary capital. The obstacles are mainly political—i.e., the objections of England in Persia and of Germany in Turkey. Should these objections be overcome, Russia would command a direct route to the south viâ Persia and Bagdad. If, at the same time, England were intrusted with the construction of a line from Koweit to Bagdad, the interests of Germany, England, and Russia would all have due consideration. If there were objections to the division of the line into spheres of interests, the whole railway system, with its ramifications, could be internationalized, and worked in the common interests of the world.

The French Ambassador informs me that some such plan would be viewed not unfavourably in Paris, where it is believed that unless England and France participate in the construction of the Bagdad Railway it will eventually be constructed by Germany alone. Russia, however, has objected, and without the consent of Russia the participation of France and England would be merely playing into Germany's hands, and quite needlessly alienating Russia for the benefit of Germany. But if Russia could be induced to withdraw her opposition, France would gladly enter into the German scheme. I have since understood, though not with positive certainty, that Count Witte is not averse to the construction of the Bagdad Railway on the understanding that Russia receives the right of joining up her own system with the projected line. I venture to point out that if a line were constructed from the Gulf to Bagdad, England would also receive certain commercial facilities which would be of great value. It might thus be possible to reconcile the conflicting interests by a general scheme which would do justice to the claims of all parties concerned. But it is evident that if Germany obtains the concession to Kermanshah and Hamadan the combination above outlined becomes impossible, and that it might, therefore, be as well that the Governments of England and Russia should interchange views as to the course to be taken in view of such an eventuality.

In conversation with M. Hartwig, I have touched lightly on these considerations. He has expressed himself strongly on the subject of a possible German Railway Concession in Persia, and told me that he did not believe that his Government could be brought to consent to it.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) CECIL SPRING-RICE.

[11159]

No. 6.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.—(Communicated by India Office April 2.)*

(Telegraphic.) P.

March 31, 1906.

YOUR telegram dated the 29th instant. I repeat, for your information, following telegrams regarding riots in Seistan:—

1. From Agent to the Governor-General, Baluchistan:—

“Officer Commanding escort from Dalbanddin addressed Assistant Adjutant-General, Quetta, yesterday in following terms:—

“‘Superintendent of Police, Robat, reports as follows:—

“‘“With reference to your telegram of the 28th instant. Plague measures have given rise to disturbance in Seistan, and an attack on the Consulate is expected. Have received written requests from Macpherson to wire to you to come up as quickly as possible.”

“‘Further particulars, which I immediately telegraphed for, from Macpherson and Benn have not yet reached me from them. Further telegram to them will at once be sent. Meanwhile I am pushing on with escort with all possible speed.’

“No further intelligence has reached us from Seistan owing to want of direct telegraphic communication with that place.”

2. From Consul-General, Meshed, dated the 29th instant:—

“Approach to Seistan city of large mobs from Bunjar village is reported by Consul at Seistan. Mob from same village was in 1903 instigated to trouble British Consul by his Russian colleague.

“Strong messages are being sent by Governor-General, Khorassan, and conduct of Governor of Seistan is good.”

[11160]

No. 7.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.—(Communicated by India Office April 2.)*

(Telegraphic.) P.

April 1, 1906.

IN continuation of my telegram dated the 30th ultimo. Disturbances in Seistan.

Instructions have already been given to Officer Commanding detachment *en route* for Robat that, except in the case of extreme urgency, of which Consul on spot must judge, he is not to cross frontier without direct order from Government of India. As it seems unlikely that Consulate will be attacked, these instructions will be repeated.

The following telegram was sent on the 28th ultimo by His Majesty's Minister at Tehran to the Foreign Office, and repeated to Seistan and to the Government of India:—

“Seistan disturbances.

“Authority to protect British Consulate was telegraphed in my presence to Governor-General, Khorassan and Seistan, by Mushir-ed-Dowleh, whom I at once saw on receiving the news. Offence will be given here by dispatch of troops from Robat.”

[11161]

No. 8.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.—(Communicated by India Office April 2.)*

(Telegraphic.) P.

April 1, 1906.

MY telegram of yesterday. Disturbances in Seistan.

Macpherson, Seistan Consul, has now communicated following information:—

Riot, due to plague measures, took place on morning of the 27th. Consul and Consulate doctor were struck by clods, and dispensary was wrecked by crowd.

Customs official's attempt, contrary to Consul's advice, forcibly to remove plague patient to hospital, was immediate cause of outbreak. Movement was due, in the opinion of the Consul, to Russian instigation, inspection of women by Russian doctor, and to tactlessness of the Customs officer, Cattersel; but Russians attribute it to propaganda of Persian doctor who has recently arrived.

Hughes, Assistant Superintendent of Police at Robat, left for Seistan with twenty-three sowars on the 30th ultimo, Macpherson having asked him to move to Seistan with available Chagai militia sowars, as night attack on Consulate was threatened. Consulate has been reinforced by all available Afghans; up to morning of the 28th no attack was delivered on it. Unfortunately, however, on afternoon of same day arms had not reached Robat.

Consul has agreed that any arrests of rioters should be deferred for the present till things quiet down; meanwhile Deputy Governor is doing his best to quiet populace.

[10387]

No. 9.

*Memorandum communicated to Count Benckendorff, April 2, 1906.*

ON the 22nd instant, the Russian Ambassador made a communication in which it was suggested that His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople should adopt a more energetic attitude towards the Sublime Porte, in the question of the Turco-Persian frontier dispute, in order that the British and Russian Governments might act in complete unison in the matter.

Sir N. O'Connor reports that on the 15th ultimo he received a visit from the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, who agreed with him in the opinion that it might be difficult to induce the Porte to withdraw from Passova, or to consent to the arbitration of Great Britain and Russia, as provided in the Anglo-Russian Agreement of March 1865. Sir N. O'Connor and M. Zinoviev considered that it would be well to report the state of the question to their respective Governments before making any formal proposal to the Porte implying a reference of the question to the decision of the British and Russian Governments, lest the Porte should refuse and the two Governments be placed in the position of submitting to something in the nature of a rebuff, or of going further than might be desirable.

*Foreign Office, April 2, 1906.*

[11451]

No. 10.

*Persian Transport Company to Foreign Office.—(Received April 3.)*

*3, Salter's Hall Court, Cannon Street, London,*

*April 2, 1906.*

Sir,

I AM directed by my Board to call your attention to the serious fact that the Persian Government still refuse to permit our Company to levy tolls on the Kum-Sultanabad Road, notwithstanding that the Company have expended very large sums upon that road since it took over the Concession from the Imperial Bank of Persia.

Prior to the transfer from the Bank to us, the Persian Minister of Roads had personally assured the representative of the Imperial Bank of Persia that he would recommend the granting of tolls after a very moderate sum of money had been expended on the road in making certain improvements which had been indicated. This assurance was followed by his letter dated the 17th May, 1901, of which the text is as follows:—

“Aussitôt que les réparations de la chaussée entre Kom et Sultanabad (réparations estimées à 3,000 tomans) seront terminées, et la chaussée ainsi entièrement achevée, je ferai les démarches nécessaires auprès du Gouvernement Impérial pour vous faire octroyer le Firman établissant votre droit de percevoir au péage sur l'intersection de la route entre Kom et Sultanabad.”

Not only were these improvements actually completed by the Bank before they transferred the road to us, but, in addition to this, we have ourselves expended a sum of over 3,000*l.* in widening and improving the road, which not only is now incontestably in an infinitely better condition than when taken over from the Bank, but

also is incontestably wider and better than the Resht-Kasvin Road when tolls were granted on that undertaking.

My Board refrained from applying to the Persian Government for permission to levy tolls before these considerable works had been executed, although they would have been well within their rights had they applied at a much earlier period, and it appears to them that it is a grave injustice on the part of the Persian Government still to persist in their refusal to grant tolls, and that any further outlay under existing conditions will only involve the Company in a heavy cost without any certainty that the end in view will be attained.

Under these circumstances we are compelled to ask your intervention in this matter. We claim from the Persian Government the right to levy tolls on the Kum-Sultanabad Road in terms of the Concession taken over by us from the Imperial Bank of Persia, which has since been amended in several respects.

The Concession does not specify any definite width of roadway. It states that the road should be a commercial road, and we maintain that it fulfils that condition already, as the Department of Posts use it for the transmission of their mails by "fourgons"; in fact, they pay us regularly under contract a money consideration for the privilege of running on it vehicles carrying mails and passengers.

A supplementary Article to the Concession, dated the 24th August, 1902, gives us a right to construct "caravan roads instead of levelled roads ('chaussées') in mountainous districts, or districts presenting difficulties to wheeled traffic." In the case of the Sultanabad Road we have not availed ourselves of this right, though it was open to us to do so, as we intend that this road should be, as it now is, carriageable throughout.

It is pertinent also to recall the fact that when tolls were first granted on the Russian Road from Enzeli to Tehran, the width of that road on the mountainous section between Kudan and Ushashehai was in parts less than 12 ft. It is evident that width is of more importance on a mountainous road than on a road running across a plain.

It should be noted that we are applying primarily for the sanction of the Persian Government to the levying of tolls by us on beasts of burden. The Persian Government appear to forget that under our Concession we have the monopoly of wheeled traffic on our roads. Consequently, we can charge vehicles what we please; and in consenting that the Persian Government should fix for us the tolls to be collected from vehicles, we are conceding, not asking, a favour.

A report on this road has recently been drawn up by the Persian Minister of Roads and his engineer for the information of the Persian Government, whose refusal to sanction the levy of tolls had been based upon it. We inclose a copy of this report.

The general width of the road is 18 feet to 24 feet; in many parts more—a width undoubtedly ample for the needs of a very important highway. Yet the traffic on this particular road is at present very small, and will develop only gradually. It is true that in certain parts the width is less than this. But our agents in Tehran inform us that two meeting carriages can now pass in some of these narrower places by ordinary careful driving, though at some specially awkward points it may be necessary to unhitch one or more wing horses where vehicles with four horses harnessed abreast are concerned.

At the present time the number of vehicles passing along the road averages forty-five per mensem, or one every sixteen hours, and for this and a much greater traffic the facilities are ample.

The widening of the road, as suggested by the Persian engineer, cannot be recommended or undertaken. It would involve very large expenditure in connection with the widening of an embankment nearly 16 miles long, besides other unnecessary works. But we may note here, for the information of His Majesty's Government, that, should any further facilities for the crossing of vehicles be considered advisable by His Majesty's Legation at Tehran either now or as the traffic expands, we should be quite prepared to provide more crossing places, and, further, to endeavour to fulfil any other suggestions which the Legation may put forward.

Our engineers advise us that the fords or paved crossings demanded by the Persian engineer are not necessary at present, and that the existing arrangements are in no sense a source of danger to either foot or wheel traffic.

As regards the metalling of the road, the Persian engineer expresses an opinion that under certain conditions the road may become impracticable for a distance of 1-1 miles. This statement implies that, at the time of inspection, the stretch under

notice satisfied the requirements of traffic, but that, owing to the want of ballast, it might become impracticable in the future. We understand, from our knowledge of the country and soil, that there will be no difficulty in maintaining this section in efficient order. The upkeep of the roadway will form part of the ordinary business of the road—in short, will be a part of the every-day maintenance work. We most emphatically claim that we may be trusted to see that the surface which at any given time is in order shall receive adequate attention at any future time. Actual metalling of this section is out of the question. Metal is not available locally, and it would be impracticable—given the enormous expense—to carry it from the distant places where it is procurable. We understand that the engineer of the Minister of Roads appreciated this difficulty.

The question, then, of the road, and with it the question of the tolls, appears to us to depend on the political situation, not on the engineering aspect.

We respectfully impress on you that the Persian Government, by refusing the application, have succeeded in arresting our entire operations. The spring is at hand, which is the season for further road construction, and it would be obviously imprudent for us to continue any such further construction until tolls have been granted on the Kum-Sultanabad road. This entails that we have to keep our engineers, engaged under agreement, out there without adequate return to us in work accomplished for their salaries; that we have to disband our staff of trained road-makers; and that the time at which these roads might be expected to pay their way is still further postponed. The loss of the spring practically means the loss of the year.

Meantime the road is being constantly used by transport of all kinds, and the cost of maintaining the surface worn in this way falls entirely upon this Company without any compensation.

I am instructed by my Board to say that they bear in mind the observation contained in the concluding paragraph of your letter of the 5th instant,\* to which they desire to conform, but at the same time they feel it to be their duty to point out the serious loss and injury to the Company's interests which is involved by the attitude of the Persian Government. As regards the continuation of the Tehran-Kum Road to Ispahan, my Board will await the advice of His Majesty's Government as to when the moment may be considered opportune for reopening this matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK BOTTOMLEY, *Secretary*.

Inclosure in No. 10.

*M. de Brucq to the Sadr Azam.*

Altesse,

Octobre 1905.

J'AI l'honneur de présenter respectueusement à votre Altesse le présent rapport sur l'état de la route entre Koum et Sultanabad.

Cette route s'étend sur une distance de 22 farsakhs environ.

Je dirai ci-dessous les défauts qu'elle m'a paru présenter, et auxquels il semble qu'il y aurait lieu de remédier avant d'établir la perception des péages, puisque ceux-ci sont perçus en échange des facilités de transport offertes aux voyageurs et transporteurs.

*Première Remarque.*—En différents endroits la route est trop étroite pour permettre le coïncement de deux véhicules.

Ce fait a lieu notamment—

(a.) A la sortie de Koum, où la route est resserrée entre un large fossé d'irrigation et les murs des jardins sur une distance d'environ 500 mètres;

(b.) Aux environs de Rahgird, où la route coupe des escarpements sur une distance d'environ 1 farsakh;

(c.) Enfin entre Shahsaverun et Shaveh, et au delà vers Sultanabad, sur une distance de 4 farsakhs. Sur cette distance la route n'est que 3 mètres 50 centim. de largeur. Ce fait est d'autant plus regrettable que la route est en remblai, comprise entre deux larges fossés, et située dans une plaine sujette aux inondations.

Il est hors de doute que deux véhicules venant en sens contraire seront forcément arrêtés, car la disposition des lieux et la nature des terres constituées par le Kevir ne permettent pas que l'un d'eux sorte de l'étroite route, et ce défaut

\* Forwarding letter to Company of December 22, 1905.



palpable est aggravé par le fait qu'on a négligé d'établir au moins de distance en distance des sortes d'élargissements où le croisement serait possible.

Ainsi je ne parviens pas à comprendre comment, avec une telle route, on pourra assurer le trafic dans les deux sens.

*Deuxième Remarque.*—La route croise en divers points des thalwegs ("flood streams") importants, où aucune construction n'a été faite en vue de faciliter le passage des piétons, véhicules, ou bêtes de somme au moment de la venue des eaux, tels que ponts, cassis empierrés, arches d'inondation, ou remblais en pierre. Entre autres, je citerai le thalweg nommé Roudsez, qui se trouve immédiatement avant le Café de Djedil et Mamalek, et trois autres entre ce point et Koum, un autre près du caravanseraï Sangua, un autre entre celui-ci et Sombolobad, un autre près de Salifschekan, soit au moins sept thalwegs que la route croise, et pour lesquels le passage sera certainement très pénible au moment de la fonte des neiges, si on n'y fait pas quelque construction spéciale. Je citerai de plus un profond fossé près de Rahgird, où un petit pont est nécessaire, et qui semble y avoir été projeté, mais n'a pas encore été construit.

*Troisième Remarque.*—Quant aux empièvements de la route, ils n'ont pas été faits en de nombreux endroits et sur de longues distances. Pour certaines parties, le manque d'empierrements ne présentera pas, probablement, d'inconvénients majeurs, mais il est hors de doute que pour les parties comprises entre Sorkhab et Shahseveran, et au delà vers Sultanabad, soit sur une distance de 4 farsakhs environ, le manque d'empierrements, par suite de la nature du sol, aura pour résultat qu'au moment des pluies la route sera convertie en un bourbier impraticable.

Telles sont, Altesse, les principales remarques que j'ai cru de mon devoir de présenter à votre Altesse.

N'ayant pas eu à ma disposition ni le contrat d'entreprise ni le cahier des charges de cette entreprise, je ne puis conclure sur le fait de savoir si la Compagnie a rempli ses engagements ou non, mais il semble juste d'ajouter que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Schah est en droit d'exiger qu'avant de laisser établir des péages, s'il y a lieu, sur la route de Koum à Sultanabad, que cette route soit praticable, et, selon moi, dans son état actuel elle deviendra rapidement impraticable dès les premières pluies.

J'ai, &c.  
L'Ingénieur, Chef Directeur des  
Ponts et Chaussées,  
(Signé) AD. DE BRUCQ.

[11479]

No. 11.

*India Office to Foreign Office.*—(Received April 3.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 2nd instant, relative to the disturbances in Seistan.

*India Office, April 3, 1906.*

Inclosure in No. 11.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*April 2, 1906.*

MY previous telegrams since the beginning of the present month regarding disturbances in Seistan. Macpherson's latest report, dated the 30th ultimo, addressed to the Foreign Department of the Government of India and repeated to Meshed and Tehran, is as follows:—

"I am informed by M. Cattersel that Russians turned out 150 men, including large number of Beluchis, during threatened disturbances yesterday. There was reserve of 50,000 rounds of ammunition; rifles appeared to be all of same pattern. Situation much quieter.

[11478]

No. 12.

*India Office to Foreign Office.*—(Received April 3.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 2nd instant, relative to quarantine arrangements on the Perso-Afghan border.

*India Office, April 3, 1906.*

Inclosure in No. 12.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*April 2, 1906.*

AS frontier from Hastadan to Siah Koh Bandan is undemarcated and line on map does not indicate true boundary, and as Russians have for years shown anxiety to secure control of tracts, which latest reports show are not waterless desert, Government of India are disposed to think that we should invoke Article VI of the Treaty of Paris, 1857t provided that Consul at Seistan is correct in saying that Governor of Kain, who is in treaty with Russian Bank for loan of 30,000 tomans, has started quarantine posts on Perso-Afghan border north of Duroh.

Disputes with Afghans, we could perhaps point out, are likely to be involved, and right to be consulted before establishment of cordon might be claimed by us. Further, we might require, if cordon is thought necessary, that we should control it, as frontier questions are involved by it.

If these proposals have your concurrence, we might send Clemenger from Nasratabad Ispe to the region in question; and, as Macpherson in his telegram of the 21st ultimo recommended, we would depute four hospital assistants if cordon is established. Macpherson can perhaps arrange for sending other men temporarily, pending arrival of these persons.

(Addressed British Minister at Tehran; repeated Secretary of State for India, Seistan, and Meshed.)

[10806]

No. 13.

*Sir Edward Grey to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 51.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, April 3, 1906.*

BAKHTIARI road.

Your telegrams Nos. 69, 71, 76, and 80 of the 20th, 21st, 24th, and 28th March respectively.

With regard to corresponding with Chiefs you may use your discretion.

We understand that Hajji Ali Kuli Khan is proceeding to Tehran, and, in that case, you should utilize the presence of the three principal Chiefs to attempt to effect settlement of accounts and outstanding questions with the Company.

We concur in your suggestion that there will be no necessity for His Majesty's Vice-Consul to visit the Bakhtiari road, and are informing the Company in that sense.

[10766]

No. 14.

*Foreign Office to India Office.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, April 3, 1906.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 27th ultimo, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to inform you that he concurs in the view of the Secretary of State for India that copies of certain papers regarding the present state of Persia and the steps to be taken in anticipation of the breaking up of the existing order of things in the country should be laid before the Committee of Imperial Defence.

I am to add that Mr. Grant Duff's despatch No. 35 of the 2nd February and my letter to you of the 6th March have already been communicated to the Committee by this Department.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

[10806]

No. 15.

*Foreign Office to Persian Transport Company.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, April 3, 1906.*

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to inform you that he has had under his consideration, in communication with His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran, the points raised in your letters of the 22nd February and the 8th March last, relative to the condition of the Ahwaz-Ispahan road and the political situation in the Bakhtiari country.

From reports received from Mr. Grant Duff it appears that His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Ahwaz has only recently returned from Ram Hormuz, and that he states that the split between the Chiefs remains at present a family quarrel, which has not, so far as he can see, extended to the tribesmen. It seems, further, that Major Morton, an engineer of the Indian Irrigation Department, has just visited the Ahwaz-Ispahan road, and has drawn up a report on its condition which will shortly reach His Majesty's Legation at Tehran. In the circumstances, Sir E. Grey does not consider that it will be necessary for His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Ahwaz to again visit Ram Hormuz for the present or to furnish a second report on the road.

As regards the safety or otherwise of the road for the Company's caravans, it is of course impossible for His Majesty's Government to undertake the responsibility of advising you in the matter, but Mr. Grant Duff is inclined to the opinion that its condition is not more dangerous at the present moment than at other times. He states further that he has recently obtained payment of the greater part of the claims for robberies on the road. According to a telegram dated the 29th ultimo from His Majesty's Consul-General at Ispahan, traffic on the road has now commenced.

I am to add that copies of your letters have been forwarded to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran, who will furnish his observations in due course. If, as Sir E. Grey is given to understand, the three principal Bakhtiari Chiefs will shortly meet at Tehran, Mr. Grant Duff will take the opportunity to endeavour to effect a settlement of the various outstanding questions between the Chiefs and your Company.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) E. GORST.

[11568]

No. 16.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 4.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 3rd April, relative to the riots in Seistan.

*India Office, April 4, 1906.*

Inclosure in No. 16.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*April 3, 1906.*

MY telegram of the 2nd April regarding riots in Seistan.

Before reading the telegram repeated in mine above cited, the following telegram from Macpherson, dated the 29th March, addressed to the Government of India,

Foreign Department, and repeated to Meshed, Tehran, and Foreign Office with Viceroy, should be read:—

"Large crowd came this morning from Birjan, and, failing compliance with its demands, threatened to attack. Comprised in these demands were:—

- "1. Prohibition of Belgian interference in plague operations.
- "2. Handing over for punishment of a British trader accused of [groups unintelligible].
- "3. Written agreement that no punishment should be inflicted on rioters of the 27th March.

"Great excitement still prevails. Populace remain masters of the situation and there is no security, as Deputy Governor still fears to make arrests, though crowd was eventually induced by him to disperse. Merely because he was British servant one of our local levies was roughly handled in city last night. Excitement being now chiefly directed against Belgians, latter have taken up their residence in Russian Consulate to-day. We could with difficulty defend Consulate premises if serious attack were made in retaliation, as threatened, and I am therefore at present unable to demand that offenders should be punished. I shall, however, be in much stronger position when levies from Robat arrive, as I shall then have thirty or forty extra rifles. Ample justification now exists for taking advantage of recent riot to send in the extra arms and ammunition for the Consulate, and I hope this will be done. Double company should reach Robat with the arms about 15th April, and advisability of marching it in is also for consideration. Neighbouring villages are now certain also to become infected, and as daily average in the city has already reached seven, I fear there will be great extension of the disease there, since further plague measures are out of the question at present. Time for reconsideration of question as to whether we should not, preferably in concert with Persian doctor, assume direct control over plague operations has, I venture to think, in view of incompetence shown by the Belgians, arrived. As, however, we should have to contend against maximum of Russian intrigue, besides possible local opposition, this will not be possible unless a strong force is maintained at Robat. Fazl Rahman and the compounder, latter of whom received rather severe contusion on arm, were, in addition to myself and Kelly, struck with clods. Removal of basins, &c., and destruction of outer doors of hospital, all furniture, and majority of medicines, constituted damage done to our hospital on the 27th March."

[11629]

No. 17.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 4.)*

(No. 88.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, April 4, 1906.*

FOLLOWING sent to India:—

"Your telegram of 2nd April: Afghan frontier quarantine ports.

"Neither the Sanitary Council nor the Customs Department know anything of the establishment of such ports, and are inquiring. I have warned the Customs Department that their establishment might lead to complications with Afghanistan. The dispatch of a Russian doctor to Birjand is confirmed, the Persian Government having given way before the threat of the Russian Government to close the whole Khorassan frontier. Until we obtain more definite evidence that Russia intends to establish a cordon, I deprecate representations to the Persian Government in the sense suggested. A reliable doctor might meanwhile be dispatched to Birjand, but please let me know if you decide on this step.

"Any action likely to raise the Perso-Afghan frontier question would, I think, be impolitic in the present unsettled condition of Persia, and would only be justified if it were of really vital importance."

[1647]

E

[11708]

No. 18.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 5.)*

Sir,

*India Office, April 4, 1906.*

WITH reference to Sir E. Gorst's letter of the 26th March, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to say that he concurs in Secretary Sir E. Grey's view that the decision not to guarantee a loan to the Governor of Kain, which was conveyed to Sir A. Hardinge in Lord Lansdowne's telegram of the 28th July, 1905, should be adhered to.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[11705]

No. 19.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 5.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 4th instant, relative to the Seistan disturbances.

*India Office, April 5, 1906.*

Inclosure in No. 19.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*April 4, 1906.*

I REPEAT, for information, following telegrams, dated respectively the 30th and 31st March, from Macpherson regarding disturbances in Seistan:—

1. "150 armed men, including large number of Baluchis, were, M. Cattersel informs me, yesterday turned out by Russians during threatened disturbance. There was reserve of 50,000 rounds of ammunition; rifles appeared to be all of same pattern. Situation much quieter."

2. "There is undoubted possibility of real trouble, situation being again very serious. I shall temporize as much as possible as to the concessions which, according to latest information, Mullahs intend to demand, and to enforce if not granted. But orders to move up with all dispatch will, I hope, be sent to troops on the way up. As they may be required to transport supplies to Seistan, camels with reserve supplies for double company should be also ordered to stand fast at Robat. Arrangements for immediate dispatch of further reinforcements in case of necessity should, I would also suggest, be considered. It has been given out by Russians, though this may be bluff, that 600 Cossacks are coming."

Arrival of Hughes, who should have reached Nasratabad on the 3rd April, at Girde, half-way between Robat and Nasratabad, has been telegraphed by the Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan.

Arms will be sent on with small escort as soon as possible to Consul, whose action, with reference to foregoing messages, I propose to approve. We are consulting military authorities on Consul's proposals for detaining camels at Robat and his suggestion for further reinforcement, as well as on question, which will be considered with reference to situation existing there on their arrival at Robat, of sending whole of double company to Seistan. From experience gained here, our medical officers can advise as to carrying out such arrangements as are possible, due regard being had, as in India, to customs and prejudices of the people, for prevention and spread of plague, and services of double company might be offered to Persian Government to assist their authorities in maintenance of order, if Russians, as stated by Reuter on the 2nd April, are complaining of failure of quarantine and extension of plague. Should situation be critical, I propose to send double company without further parley if Persian Government decline offer. As present break in communication might be dangerous, it seems also desirable to press for immediate completion of Seistan telegraph line.

[11749]

No. 20.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 5.)*

(No. 90.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, April 5, 1906.*

IN Reuter's telegrams to-day the Russian Legation here is quoted as authority for a statement that a cordon is being formed at Birjand and that Russian Cossacks are being sent from Askabad for the purpose. I have been informed in writing by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires that this is a mistake, and that what he reported was that Cossacks of the Tehran Brigade, to the number of 100, were being sent for service in Khorassan from Tehran.

[11859]

No. 21.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 5.)*

(No. 91.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, April 5, 1906.*

MY telegram No. 136 to Government of India.

I am informed by the Mushir-ed-Dowleh that the Persian Government are placing quarantine posts at Birjand, Turshiz, Karez, and Turbat-i-Sheikh Jam. His Excellency states that this action is due to pressure exercised by the Russian Government.

At the places mentioned quarantine will be enforced by Cossacks from the Tehran Brigade, under Persian officers, who will also guard the less frequented roads leading from Khorassan into Seistan.

His Excellency gave me a most positive assurance that the Persian Government would permit no Russian troops to enter their territory, and added that an intimation to this effect had been made to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires.

It appears that we are already represented at Birjand by a doctor.

[11708]

No. 22.

*Sir Edward Grey to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 53.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, April 5, 1906.*

WE see no reason to modify the opinion expressed in our telegram No. 61 of the 28th July, 1905, respecting the loan to the Governor of Kain.

Above is with reference to your telegram No. 72 of the 22nd March.

[11451]

No. 23.

*Sir Edward Grey to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 53.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, April 5, 1906.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your observations and for such action as you can properly take, copy of a letter from the Persian Transport Company relative to the refusal of the Persian Government to permit the levying of tolls upon the Kum-Sultanabad road.\*

The communication from the Foreign Office of the 5th ultimo, to which reference is made in the concluding paragraph of this letter, forwarded the assurance of the 22nd December, 1905, regarding the Kum-Ispahan road, but added that, in view of the political situation in Persia and the attitude of the Persian Government, any action by the Company likely to provoke serious objections or opposition on their part was at the present moment to be deprecated.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

[11895]

No. 24.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 6.)*

(No. 94.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, April 6, 1906.*

SEISTAN disturbances.

Seistan telegrams of the 5th instant.

Compensation for the damage done, and exemplary punishment of the ring-leaders, should, I think, be demanded, but the Mollahs have become more powerful of late, and the Persian Government are weak and penniless, and it is unlikely that we shall obtain adequate punishment of important Mujteheds. There will probably also be delay in paying compensation for damage. The Kuh-i-Malik-Siah extension and a free grant of the land required might be asked for.

The Seistan disturbances may be reproduced elsewhere in Persia at any moments, but, generally, the feeling of the people is much less against Europeans than against the Government. His Majesty's Consul alone can be the judge of the real urgency for the dispatch of Indian troops or for further plague measures.

[12075]

No. 25.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 7.)*

(No. 96.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, April 7, 1906.*

SEISTAN. Telegram No. 212 of the 6th instant from His Majesty's Consul in Seistan to Government of India.

Mounted troops are being sent to Seistan from Meshed by the Persian Government, but men from the Tehran Cossack brigade under Persian officers will eventually relieve them.

The Tehran Cossacks, it should be remembered, are in Russian uniform, and are probably under Russian influence to some extent, but Persia possesses no other fairly reliable troops.

I have been assured by the Mushir-ed-Dowleh that the ringleaders of the disturbances will be punished.

The dispatch of Indian troops across the Persian frontier will greatly annoy the Shah, and will probably cause the Persian Government, whose obstructiveness has been rather less pronounced of late, to sulk for many months. Before sending troops across the frontier, His Majesty's Government will doubtless take these points into consideration.

If, on the other hand, complications are not likely to be caused elsewhere by such action, a salutary effect might in the long run be produced by sending troops to Seistan and keeping them there until the riot and plague questions are thoroughly settled. It would show the Persian Government that our endurance has limits.

Unless we mean to see the matter through I am entirely opposed to sending any force at all, and if one is sent it should be an adequate one.

[11895]

No. 26.

*Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Grant Duff.*

(No. 51.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, April 7, 1906.*

SEISTAN riots. Your telegram No. 94 of 6th April.

You should impress on Persian Government that they will be held responsible for the present serious state of affairs in Seistan. Recent events show that the telegraph extension is more than ever necessary, and you should press for immediate permission to construct it. Before danger of further rioting is over and until state of affairs becomes normal, it seems premature to demand punishment and compensation.

[11629]

No. 27.

*Foreign Office to India Office.*

(Confidential.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, April 7, 1906.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 3rd instant, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you herewith copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran,\* replying to the telegram of the 2nd instant from the Government of India, relative to quarantine posts on the Afghan frontier.

I am to state that Sir E. Grey is disposed to concur in the view expressed by Mr. Grant Duff that, until more definite evidence is obtained of the intention of the Russians to form a cordon, any representations to the Persian Government in the sense suggested by the Viceroy are to be deprecated, and that it would be impolitic to take any action at the present moment likely to raise the question of the Perso-Afghan frontier.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) E. GORST.

[12076]

No. 28.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 8.)*

(No. 97.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, April 8, 1906.*

PERSO-TURKISH frontier dispute.

His Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez telegraphs as follows, the 7th instant:—

"I am informed, confidentially, by the Turkish Consul-General at Tabreez that he has received a report from his Vice-Consul at Urmi to the effect that a Turkish Lieutenant and soldiers have entered Dasht and enrolled a force of Kurds as irregular cavalry. They are said to number 700."

[12258]

No. 29.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 9.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 6th instant, relative to the Seistan plague riots.

*India Office, April 9, 1906.*

Inclosure in No. 29.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*India Office, April 6, 1906.*

PLAGUE in Seistan. Your telegram dated the 4th April. Except that services of our men should not be offered to Persian Government, I approve your proposals. Statement that force is required for defence of Consulate should be advanced to meet objections by Persian Government. I assume that your officers and men will in no case be concerned in forcing upon population sanitary or preventive measures which are contrary to the prejudices and customs, religious or other, of the people.



[12324]

No. 30.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 9.)*

(No. 98.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, April 9, 1906.*

D'ARCY Concession and Bakhtiaris.

According to a statement made both to me and the Persian Government by the Shuja-es-Sultan, the land which is being worked at Marmaten by the Syndicate is his personal property. He claims a share in the profits. The Shuja-es-Sultan is a brother of the Shahab-es-Sultaneh, one of the Chiefs who signed the Agreement, and who is now in Tehran.

I was asked by the Shuja-es-Sultan and the Persian Government to suggest that, pending the settlement of the dispute, the second of the annual instalments of 2,000% due by the Syndicate be held up. I replied that this course would involve breaking the Agreement, and that the Company would, therefore, probably decline to adopt it. Apparently the two Signatories now in Tehran think that the matter can be settled between the Bakhtiaris themselves.

The present paramount Chief is expected shortly, and I have arranged that, on his arrival, a meeting will be held to discuss the oil and road questions, which I hope may then be definitely settled.

Yesterday the Chiefs agreed to pay immediately the outstanding claims for robberies.

[12456]

No. 31.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 9.)*

(No. 99.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, April 9, 1906.*

GOVERNMENT loan made through Imperial Bank of Persia.

Persian Government have made a payment of interest. Only 5,500% has been paid out of the 23,270% 7s. due, but I am informed by the Manager of the Bank that the Persian Government have promised further instalments, and are showing a disposition to pay.

[12258]

No. 32.

*Sir Edward Grey to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 58.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, April 9, 1906.*

YOU should ask Viceroy to repeat to you his telegram of the 4th instant, and our reply of the 6th instant, if he has not already done so.

[12350]

No. 33.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 10.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 29th March, relative to riots in Seistan.

*India Office, April 9, 1906.*

Inclosure in No. 33.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*March 29, 1906.*

RIOTING in Seistan.

Please let me know what information you have on this subject. See telegram No. 82, dated the 28th March, from His Majesty's Minister at Tehran.

[12401]

No. 34.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 10.)*

(No. 100.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, April 10, 1906.*

PROPOSED Indo-Persian Parcel Post Convention.

The proposal put forward in Lord Lansdowne's despatch No. 85 of the 17th June, 1905, is not refused by Persian Government, but they hope that, if they accept it, the Indian post-offices will, on their side, allow letters addressed to India by Persians in south to be stamped with Persian stamps. They represent that loss is caused to the Persian Exchequer by insisting on the use of Indian stamps for such correspondence.

[12670]

No. 35.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 13.)*

(No. 102.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, April 13, 1906.*

SEISTAN Water Award.

My despatch No. 89 of 29th March, and Sir A. Hardinge's despatch No. 156 of the 10th November, 1902.

Mushir-ed-Dowleh writes, in reply to my note of the 8th March, that in his note of the 9th November, 1902, the Arbitration Commission and final reference to decision of Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs were only accepted by the Persian Government on condition that the award of the Commission or decision of Secretary of State should be in agreement with the Goldsmid Award.

Yamin-i-Nizam, who was the Persian Representative with the Commission, is now in Tehran, and I have asked the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, in view of the obscurity of the Persian note of the 22nd February, to allow him to communicate to me in concise form the objections of the Persian Government to the award.

[12767]

No. 36.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 14.)*

(No. 103.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, April 14, 1906.*

His Majesty's Consul in Seistan telegraphs as follows:—

"It seems that no orders to make arrests have so far been received by the Deputy Governor. Unless he is strongly pressed he will certainly not move in the matter, for, as I have previously reported, it is practically certain that he and the Mustaufi are at the bottom of the whole agitation. He is now living 4 miles outside the city, and communication with him is rendered almost impossible by floods. I would therefore suggest that orders be sent to him to return to the city at once and remain there until the business is settled. I have no time to go and see him, and he declines to come and see me. Nothing will conduce to a speedier settlement than to oblige him to remain in the city until it is effected, for he is in great terror of the plague."

I have sent the following reply, which I repeated to Foreign Office, India, and Meshed:—

"Your telegram No. 101.

"In the opinion of His Majesty's Government it would be premature to demand the punishment of the ringleaders and compensation for damage before things are again in a normal condition, and there is no further danger of rioting. I am meanwhile asking once more for the telegraph extension, and have impressed on the Persian Government the gravity of the situation, and informed them that they will be held responsible for it.

"I have moreover asked them to order the Governor to return to the city."

[12768]

No 37.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 15.)*

(No. 105.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, April 15, 1906.*

His Majesty's Consul in Seistan telegraphs as follows:—

"There have been no further disturbances here, but the situation continues most unsatisfactory. Our traders are subjected to petty annoyances, and there are no officials left with whom I can transact business. There is no security, and the British trader and Customs Mirza, accused of giving religious abuse, as reported in my telegram of the 29th March, are unable to leave the Consulate and Customs premises respectively, owing to fear of assault. Meanwhile constant communications pass between the Russians and the ringleaders, and the Russians, as far as I can gather, are endeavouring to incite the ringleaders to further disturbances. Some excitement has also been caused by news of the riot at Meshed, which has reached the people.

"I venture to think that either our troops should march straight to Nasratabad and restore order, or that an ultimatum should be given to the Persian Government, stating that unless our demands for punishment of ringleaders are complied with within a fixed time, which should be a short one, the troops will be marched in; seventeen days have already passed since the occurrence of the riot.

"(Addressed Tehran, and repeated to India and Meshed.)"

The Deputy-Governor has been ordered by the Mushir-ed-Dowleh by telegraph to return to Nasratabad. Mushir-ed-Dowleh states that the town must be restored to its normal condition before the Persian Government can punish the ringleaders. Nearly three weeks have now elapsed since the riot, and I would therefore suggest that if the Persian Government have taken no steps in a week from to-day I should be authorized to inform them that British troops will be sent to protect the Consulate, unless adequate steps are taken for the punishment of the ringleaders.

I would venture to remind you that during the last year and a-half no fewer than four British officers have now been attacked. None of the assailants have as yet been punished by the Persian Government, and this state of affairs is having a most deplorable effect on our prestige.

[13016]

No. 38.

*Major Cox to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 17.)*

(No. 2. Commercial.)

Sir,

*Bushire, March 18, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your information, a Confidential note dated the 1st instant drawn up by Vice-Consul Richards, in which he discusses the aspects and prospects of the seaborne trade between Russia and the Persian Gulf, as at present indicated by the operations of the Russian Steam Navigation and Trading Company's direct steamers from Odessa.

The nature and sources of Mr. Richards' information make it undesirable that his note should form part of a published Trade Report, I therefore submit it independently.

The British shipping Companies which come within the purview of the Vice-Consul's allusions, namely:—

1. The British India Steam Navigation Company;
2. The Arabian and Persian Steam Navigation Company,
3. Messrs. Bucknall Brothers;
4. The West Hartlepool Company,

are, it is to be hoped, alive to their own interests, and maintain such a vigilant watch upon the operations of their heavily subsidized Russian rival as will enable them to know at once when its artificial competition seriously affects their own interests and earnings. I therefore hesitate to be too prodigal with good advice. I am, however,

by no means alone in holding the opinion that the practically unopposed predominance which British lines have so long enjoyed in the control of the carrying trade to Muscat and the Persian Gulf ports, has made them prone to a somewhat rigid and intolerant line of policy towards local traders, which it will surely be necessary for them to modify before long if they are to continue to keep out foreign competition as successfully as they have in the past, especially State-aided competition like that represented by the Odessa Line.

Mr. Richards has been at pains to study the question, and I venture to recommend that, if you see no objection, his conclusions may be communicated confidentially to the London agents of the Companies mentioned.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) P. Z. COX.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

*Report on the Direct Trade from Russia with Bushire and Bunder Abbas, during the Years 1904-1905, by the Russian Steam Navigation and Trading Company's Direct Steamers from Odessa.*

IT will be seen from statements attached that the total imports into Bushire and Bunder Abbas during the year 1905, show an increase of 1,261 packages over that of 1904.

When this is taken with the following facts—

(a.) That nearly three-quarters of the cargo brought forward in 1905 was during the first six months of the year;

(b.) The disturbed state of Russia generally, and Odessa in particular;

It is apparent that this trade with Russia, through direct steamers, is making a steady advance.

2. Besides the inroads the Russians are making in the trade of cotton piece-goods and prints in the south of Persia, there is the other danger to be feared of their seriously affecting the British steam-ship Companies by capturing part of their trade, which, if they do, the British steam-ship owners have only themselves to blame.

3. At present, owing to a combination or ring of the Companies running direct steamers from the United Kingdom to the Persian Gulf, and what is particularly a monopoly of the Indian trade held by the British Indian Steam Navigation Company, together with their arbitrary and harsh rules, &c., the merchants of the Gulf are very discontented and would welcome any steam-ship Company, whether Russian, German, or French who would release them from what they consider the harsh clutches of a combination and monopoly.

4. Directly Russia, and Odessa in particular, have recovered their normal state, and this Steam-ship and Trading Company, which is strongly backed by the Russian Government, can concentrate its energies to its advancement, an attack on the carrying trade to the Gulf can be looked for, and it is on the transshipment cargo from Port Said and Suez where it is likely to be first felt, the present treatment of which is most obnoxious to the merchants.

5. Seeing that the trade from the continent to the Persian Gulf is 20 per cent. of the total and that to Bussorah must be also about the same proportion, if not bigger, owing to the great quantity of cargo which is sent forward from there to Asia Minor and Persia, it can be easily seen that the combination, and British India Steam Navigation Company especially, can be very seriously hit, should the Directors of the Russian Steam Navigation Company and Trading Company, or any other Company, lay themselves open to capture this trade route.

6. It is greatly to be regretted that the British steam-ship Companies trading with the Gulf, do not take more notice of complaints made to them, either direct or through other sources, instead of adhering so steadfastly to the clauses on their bills of lading, which purport to free themselves from all responsibilities whatsoever, regardless of what they might or might not do with the cargo they carry.

7. Whether all these clauses on the bills of lading are legal or not remains unproved, as the poor merchant fears to set the law in motion against such a strong combination and Company, preferring to grin and bear his present treatment to risking being run into heavy legal expenses, even should he win the case, but he would welcome the advent of another Company to free him from his present position, and, therefore,

[1617]

(4)

should the Directors of the Russian Steam Navigation and Trading Company seriously set themselves to capture this trade route, they will find the way well prepared for an easy victory.

8. With the capturing of this trade route the imports from other countries, to the detriment of English goods, can be expected to show an increase.

9. The combination and monopoly by their behaviour not only jeopardize their own position but the trade of the Gulf, and Persia generally, with the United Kingdom.

10. The effect combinations have on the trade with the United Kingdom is clearly shown by the disastrous result of the combination of the lines running steamers from the United Kingdom to South Africa, where the English manufactured goods are now being ousted to the advantage of American, although they have to be carried some 1,000 miles further, and no doubt it will be the same in the Persian Gulf should the Russians get a firm hold of the carrying trade.

11. At present the Russian merchant in the south of Persia is greatly handicapped against his British *confrère*, inasmuch that he has to learn the trade of the country, whereas the other man has already learnt it.

12. The trade of Persia being purely a trade of credit, and credit in every conceivable manner, the trader who has been longer in the country has naturally learnt his man the men he can trust, and, what is more to the point, those he cannot; this the Russian merchant has to learn, and falls an easy prey not only to the scoundrel who goes to him with a fixed intention of obtaining goods for which he will never pay, but also to the ordinary merchant, who is to all intents and purposes a trustworthy man, but who will never miss an opportunity to take advantage of the ignorance and gullibility of a foreign merchant new to the trade of the country.

13. The Russian is prepared and does give credit and facilities always on better terms than the English merchant, and is satisfied with smaller profits, therefore he ought to draw the better class of man, but at present he himself is not trusted by the natives as is the Englishman, therefore as yet in the south of Persia, as far as I can ascertain, the only people who will deal with him are those of decidedly shady character who can command very little, if any, credit elsewhere.

#### *Imports into Bushire.*

*Cotton and Piece-goods.*—These in the statements attached should be taken together, as, although they are entered separately in the documents which I have been able to peruse, they are, I have learnt from other sources, one and the same thing. These have nearly all been sent up-country, principally to Shiraz, but a few went on to Ispahan.

It is in this article of cotton prints that the Russians can challenge with the best chance of success the English manufacturer, and their success, more especially in the north of Persia, is, I learn from agents of leading houses, doing serious damage.

They appear to have studied the English prints which are put on the Persian market to the smallest detail, and I have been shown prints manufactured in Russia the exact copy and colour of "registered patterns" of an English manufacturer, the only difference being that it is printed on better, or rather thicker, shirting, bearing a higher or more glossy finish.

This, I understand, although it makes the article slightly dearer, does, in certain parts of the country, make it preferable to the English article, especially in the north or cooler climates, but so far as the south of Persia is concerned it has had rather a deterring effect on the selling than otherwise.

Another adverse element in the south of Persia at present is the Russian measurements not being understood by the Persian merchants, *i.e.*, the Arshan equivalent to 28 inches and the width of Russian cloth of 22-25 inches, as against 25-28 inches of English cloths. They only know the—

Persian zar	..	..	..	=	42 inches.
French mètre	..	..	..	=	39½ "
English yard	..	..	..	=	36 "

but this difficulty will be very soon overcome.

Some 137 bales which were brought by M. Alexandre E. Terletsky, agent for Messrs. Carl Scheibler and Co., for a big firm in Bushire and Behbahan, were refused on this account.

These have since been sold by M. E. Terletsky at reduced prices to get rid of them.

Samples (A) are of prints which are doing so much damage to the British goods, and have been brought by agent for Messrs. Carl Scheibler and Co.

Sample (A 1) is of Russian manufacture with Russian width, which the indentor bought at 70 cents per English yard.

Sample (A 2) is of English manufacture which, although on coarser cloth but bigger width, cannot now fetch 70 cents, which was hitherto its price. The other samples are of a class which is not dealt with by British merchants out here.

The samples (B) inclosed are what is known in the trade as "fancy goods," they have also been brought forward for sale by M. Alexandre E. Terletsky, agent for Messrs. Carl Scheibler and Co., and are part of the orders before referred to which were taken up by the indentors.

This class of goods is not imported by British houses, unless specially ordered, as there is very little demand for it in the South—the British merchant preferring not to speculate, as his Russian *confrère* will, on the off chance of working up a demand, but I am lead to understand that the same class and quality of article could be placed on the market, British manufactured, at cheaper rates.

The indentors regret their order, and do not expect to realise any profit.

The measurements on all these samples are worked out into English yard and Persian coinage.

*Tea.*—Messrs. Zenzinoff Frères imported tea from Russia in ¼-lb. lead-lined packets, also in large tin boxes. It very much resembles Indian tea in all respects, but the price is very much higher than the ordinary Indian teas, and is therefore unsaleable. The native who can afford it prefers the white China tea, while the poorer classes prefer the cheaper Batavia and Indian. The dearer Indian and Batavia teas have no sale in Persia.

It is reported that the representative of Messrs. Zenzinoff has stated that the consignment of tea sent to them has proved a complete failure, and they have only been able to sell a few packets of it here and there, and the rest they have sent to Shiraz for sale there, if possible.

*Sugar.*—The sugars which have been brought forward from Russia—both loaf and soft—are not liked by the native, and are of very inferior quality, especially the soft; and Messrs. Carl, Scheibler and Co. are experiencing great difficulty in getting it off their hands, being still further handicapped with the fact that a large quantity of it arrived sweat and water damaged.

#### *Export from Bushire.*

The Russian merchant in Persia obtains his produce for export, principally cotton in the south, by advances they make regularly to cultivators and proprietors of lands, the Russian Government extending full support towards all such ventures, thus encouraging these enterprises.

This is exemplified in the cotton business established by Messrs. Prokhoroff, who have sent an agent to Surneh, some four miles from Abadeh, who enters into various contracts with the cultivators, making advances through the intermediary of the local authorities there, with whose support everything works smoothly. Should the cultivator or proprietor fail to complete his contract he is forced by the local authorities, who in turn is forced through the Central Government in Teheran by the Russian Legation.

So far only cotton has been dealt with in the south.

*Tobacco.*—This tobacco shipped by the Russian Steam Navigation and Trading Company belongs to the Société de Tombac, whose agent in Bushire is M. Gorsky, the agent of the Russian Steam Navigation and Trading Company.

The Company has a contract that the Society will ship some 20,000 or 30,000 bags by their steamer every year from Mohammerah, Bushire, Lingah, and Bunder Abbas at a freight of equalling 6s. per double bag as against 10s. which they have to pay to British steamers when Russian steamers are not available.

M. Gorsky, being agent for the Société de Tombac in Bushire, has the passing through his hands of all the tobacco which leaves Bushire for Bussorah, Bagdad, Turkey, Asia Minor, Red Sea, and all Turkish ports that amounts to about 40,000 or 50,000 bags a year, if not more.

Exports from Bunder Abbas unobtainable.

The firm of Messrs. Zenzinoff and Company started business in Bushire about two years ago.

They have opened a shop which is stocked with samples of all kinds of glassware, crockery, boots, shoes, lamps, and sundries which have been brought out in the hopes of obtaining orders, but so far this has not been a success, and I understand they are anxious to give this business up and confine themselves to sugar and paraffin, both of which they have brought forward in fairly large quantities, but it is only with the latter they have met with any success.

(Signed) H. A. RICHARDS,  
His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul.

Bushire, March 1, 1906.

Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

TOTAL IMPORTS brought forward to Bushire and Bunder Abbas during the years 1904 and 1905 by the Russian Steam Navigation Company.

		1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
Cotton goods ..	From Odessa Bales ..	487	516	29	..
Piece-goods ..	" ..	476	1,119	643	..
Sugar, loaf ..	" Case ..	1,841	4,283	2,442	..
" soft ..	" Bags ..	11,148	14,578	3,430	..
Petroleum ..	" Cases ..	28,370	23,000	..	5,370
Tea ..	" ..	2	91	89	..
Lamps ..	" ..	26	16	..	10
Glassware ..	" ..	12	54	42	..
Crockery ..	" ..	335	327	..	8
Beer and spirits ..	" ..	31	50	19	..
Cement ..	" Casks ..	..	50	50	..
Mineral water ..	" Cases ..	..	65	65	..
Planks ..	" Pieces ..	320	20	..	300
Samovars ..	" Cases ..	7	15	8	..
Wire ..	" Bundles ..	42	42	..	..
Sundries ..	" Packages ..	120	350	230	..
" ..	From other ports ..	136	38	..	98
Total ..	..	43,353	44,614	7,047	5,786

Total Increase—1,261.

IMPORTS brought forward to Bushire by the Russian Steam Navigation Company during the years 1904 and 1905.

		1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
Cotton goods ..	From Odessa Bales ..	393	471	78	..
Piece-goods ..	" ..	258	584	326	..
Sugar, loaf ..	" Cases ..	1,614	..	..	1,614
" soft ..	" Bags ..	9,748	10,666	918	..
Petroleum ..	" Cases ..	26,370	23,000	..	3,370
Tea ..	" ..	..	13	13	..
Lamps ..	" ..	4	1	..	3
Glassware ..	" ..	..	54	54	..
Crockery ..	" ..	307	304	..	3
Beer and spirits ..	" ..	31	50	19	..
Mineral water ..	" ..	..	65	65	..
Planks ..	" Pieces ..	320	20	..	300
Samovars ..	" ..	3	15	12	..
Wire ..	" Bundles ..	..	42	42	..
Sundries ..	" Packages ..	120	304	184	..
" ..	From other ports ..	6	38	32	..
Total ..	..	39,174	35,627	1,743	5,290

Decrease, Packages—3,547.



IMPORTS brought forward to Bunder Abbas by the Russian Steam Navigation Company during the years 1904 and 1905.

		1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
Cotton goods .. ..	From Odessa	Bales .. 94	45	..	49
Piece-goods .. ..	"	" .. 218	535	317	..
Sugar, loaf .. ..	"	Cases .. 227	4,283	4,056	..
" soft .. ..	"	Bags .. 28	23	..	5
Petroleum .. ..	"	Cases .. 2,000	..	..	2,000
Tea .. ..	"	" .. 2	78	76	..
Lamps .. ..	"	" .. 22	15	..	7
Glassware .. ..	"	" .. 12	..	..	12.
Clockery .. ..	"	" .. 25	23	..	5
Cement .. ..	"	Casks .. ..	50	50	..
Samovars .. ..	"	Cases .. 4	..	..	4
Wire .. ..	"	Bundles .. 42	..	..	42
Sundries .. ..	"	Packages .. ..	46	46	..
" .. ..	From other ports	" .. 130	..	..	130
Total .. ..	..	4,179	8,987	7,057	2,249

Increase, Packages—4,808.

STATEMENT respecting Goods exported from Bushire by the Russian Steam Navigation Company during the years 1904 and 1905.

		1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
Cotton .. ..	To Odessa	Bales .. 10,365	3,160	..	7,205
Almonds .. ..	"	Bags .. ..	17	17	..
Tobacco .. ..	To Mediterranean ports	" .. 31,527	33,203	1,676	..
Gum .. ..	"	" .. 510	317	..	193
Rose water .. ..	"	Carboys .. 360	369	9	..
Carpets .. ..	"	Bundles .. 940	225	..	715
Rice .. ..	"	Bags .. 576	..	..	576
Sundries .. ..	"	Packages .. 125	12	..	113
Total .. ..	..	44,403	37,303	1,702	8,802

Total Decrease, Packages—7,100.

STATEMENT respecting Steamers belonging to the Russian Steam Navigation Company which arrived in Bushire during 1904 and 1905.

Name.	Date of Arrival from Odessa.	Date of Departure from Odessa.	Net Tonnage.
1904.			
Jupiter .. ..	March 4 ..	March 20 ..	2,138
Trouvor .. ..	May 16 ..	June 3 ..	1,098
" .. ..	September 8 ..	September 15 ..	1,098
Rostoff .. ..	November 17 ..	December 7 ..	970
1905			
Diana .. ..	March 14 ..	April 3 ..	2,400
Rostoff .. ..	May 17 ..	June 3 ..	970
Trouvor .. ..	September 27 ..	October 15 ..	1,098
Vesta .. ..	November 14 ..	November 28 ..	1,067

[12927]

No. 38\*.

Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 68.)

Sir,

Tehran, March 21, 1906.

I HAD the honour to receive your despatch No. 28 of the 20th ultimo regarding certain complaints made against me by the Persian Government.

In former communications to you I have answered, I trust to your satisfaction, that portion of the Persian Minister's Memorandum which relates to a conversation which I had with the Grand Vizier early in January last on the subject of the state of Fars.

The second complaint (that relating to the case of the Legation Seraidar) appears to me even more unjustifiable than the first, and I think it desirable to send you the whole correspondence which passed between His Majesty's Legation and the Mushir-ed-Dowleh in regard to the matter. It will be, of course, for you to judge whether any of my communications can be described as "most acrimonious."

In my despatch No. 40 of the 23rd ultimo I had the honour to report on the circumstances which led me to dispense with the services of the Seraidar of His Majesty's Legation. In my note to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh of the 6th December last you will see that, after stating the charges I made against the Seraidar, I asked for his arrest pending an inquiry into the case before the proper authorities.

On the 19th December, Mr. Graham, hearing on excellent authority that the Seraidar intended to sell his house and bolt, requested the Meftah-es-Saltaneh, head of the British section at the Persian Foreign Office, to take steps to prevent this. No steps whatever were taken by the Persian authorities to detain the Seraidar, who continued to use every effort to sell his house, and went so far as to incite one of his companions to assault the Under-Seraidar of His Majesty's Legation, who was one of the witnesses against him.

In these circumstances I ordered him to be detained in His Majesty's Legation, and so informed the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, at the same time stating that, if desired, he should be handed over to the Persian police. Subsequently, the Meftah-es-Saltaneh came to the Legation, and, on his promising to prevent the escape of Issa Khan, I handed the latter over to him.

I have already reported the result of the inquiry into the case. As one of the principal witnesses against Issa Khan was certainly, and the two Persian Judges probably, bribed, I consider that great credit is due to Mr. Graham for his conduct of the case, the more so that every difficulty was placed in his way by the Persian authorities.

I would draw your particular attention to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh's letter to me of the 27th January last, in which he incloses a communication from the Seraidar stating that Mr. Graham used violence to obtain possession of his accounts, and implying that Mr. Graham would alter these accounts to the advantage of His Majesty's Legation. I could not allow this to pass without protest, and in my note of the 29th January I expressed my regret that the Mushir-ed-Dowleh should have thought fit to allow a discharged servant to make such allegations, or should have permitted such a document to be forwarded to me.

On the next occasion on which I saw the Mushir-ed-Dowleh I drew his Excellency's attention to the very unusual tone of his communication. He admitted that Issa Khan's petition should not have been sent to me, and offered to withdraw it. I replied that I would agree to this, provided that my reply was also returned. His Excellency has never returned it, and as he has thought fit to complain, I have the honour to forward it with the other papers.

The whole case is a good example of the methods of the Persian Foreign Office, and of the growing impossibility of obtaining justice in this country. It is hardly necessary to say that, although the Persian Government has undertaken to compel the Seraidar to disgorge 70% of the money stolen from His Majesty's Government, he has received no punishment whatever, and I gather from the Mushir-ed-Dowleh that his offence is not punishable under any law in force in Persia.

As his Excellency has just been compelled to hand over nearly 10,000% of his own ill-gotten gains, he perhaps felt some shame in bringing pressure to bear on Issa Khan.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

[Inclosures not printed.]

[12931]

No. 39.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 17.)*

(No. 72.)

Sir,

*Tehran, March 25, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you copies of correspondence between His Majesty's Consul-General at Bushire and myself, regarding the question whether Persian subjects and Bahreinis, Koweitis, &c., in the employ of British subjects resident in Persia are entitled to the good offices of British Consular officers in this country.

As the question is rather a difficult one, I would inquire whether you approve the view I have taken in my instructions to Major Cox.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 39.

*Major Cox to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 4.)

Sir,

*Bushire, January 13, 1906.*

IN his despatch No. 45 of the 30th April, 1903, my predecessor had the honour to address His Majesty's Minister regarding the refusal of the local authorities to recognize the title of Persians in the employ of foreigners in Persia to the good offices of the latter's Consular representatives.

I note from my record that in this office letter No. 132 of the 14th December, 1903, his Excellency was reminded of the reference, but I cannot trace the receipt of any reply.

As the question has risen again, I am constrained to trouble you further in the matter, and have the honour to express the hope that I may be informed of your views of the position at an early date.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) P. Z. COX.

. Inclosure 2 in No. 39.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Major Cox.*

(No. 13.)

Sir,

*Tehran, March 7, 1906.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 4 of the 13th January last, regarding the refusal of the local authorities of Bushire to recognize the title of Persians in the employ of foreigners in Persia to the good offices of the latter's Consular representatives.

Article XII of the Treaty between Great Britain and Persia of 1857 contains the following clause:

"Saving the provisions in the latter part of the preceding Article, the British Government will renounce the right of protecting hereafter any Persian subject not actually in the employment of the British Mission or of British Consuls-General, Consuls, Vice-Consuls, or Consular Agents, provided that no such right is accorded to or exercised by any other foreign Powers."

Cases have undoubtedly arisen in recent years in which the Russian Legation has protected Persian subjects not in the employ of the persons mentioned in Article XII. In these circumstances it appears to me that in cases of gross oppression by the local authorities it is legitimate for you or any other British Consular officer to intervene to protect Persians in the employ of British subjects. I should, however, recommend you only to intervene in extreme cases, and never where there is a reasonable probability that the Persian subject concerned has committed an offence punishable by Mahomedan law.

I recently gave protection to the Majid-es-Saltaneh, who was for six months in "bast" at the British Consulate-General at Tabreez, and on the refusal of the Shah's Government to permit him to leave Persia, I instructed Mr. Wratishlaw to appoint him his Mirza. He was subsequently allowed to leave the country.

As regards subjects of the Sultan of Muscat—Bahreinis, Koweitis, &c.—in British employment in Persia, I think it is your duty to protect them, and I request you to report to me any cases in which the local authorities decline to accept your representations on behalf of such persons.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 3 in No. 39.

Major Cox to Mr. E. Grant Duff.

(No. 15.) *En clair.*

Bushire, January 28, 1906.

WHEN replying to my letter No. 4 of the 13th January, please also include your views in the case of subjects of the Sultan of Muscat, or other independent Mahomedan Ruler, employed by British subjects in Persia, whether official or private.

[12932]

No. 10.

Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey —(Received April 17.)

(No. 73.)

Sir,

Tehran, March 25, 1906.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 71 of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to forward herewith correspondence regarding an incident which took place at Shiraz while the harem of the Shoa-es-Sultaneh were leaving that town escorted by the Idjlal-ed-Dowleh.

The facts, as far as they are in my possession, appear to be the following:—

His Majesty's Consul, Mr. Grahame, and the sowars of his escort were practising tent-pegging on a piece of land 52 yards wide, adjoining the public road. A group of Persians and sowars were looking on. The Idjlal-ed-Dowleh, riding several hundred yards ahead of the Prince's household, crossed to the far side of the ground, and, brandishing a stick, proceeded to threaten the spectators, including some of Mr. Grahame's escort. His Majesty's Consul then rode up to the Idjlal, and an angry altercation ensued. Subsequently, the head of the Shoa-es-Sultaneh's Chancery called on Mr. Grahame, and explained that the Idjlal-ed-Dowleh had not intended to threaten the sowars. Mr. Grahame then wrote accepting this explanation, and withdrawing any expressions which might have caused offence to the Idjlal-ed-Dowleh.

On receiving the Mushir-ed-Dowleh's message, through the Meftah-es-Sultaneh, I at once asked Mr. Grahame for a Report, and communicated the substance of it to his Excellency. On the receipt of an official note from the Persian Government on the 18th instant, I replied that I had asked Mr. Grahame for a more detailed report, and also sent a private message to Mushir-ed-Dowleh to say that, if his Excellency thought fit to press the case, I should be obliged to raise the question of the threatening of our sowars. In answer, his Excellency sent the Meftah-es-Sultaneh to say that the Shah had ordered that the case should be dropped. I was therefore surprised to receive your telegram No. 44 of the 22nd instant instructing me to report on the case. I saw the Mushir-ed-Dowleh the same day, and learned that your telegram had crossed instructions to the Prince Ala-es-Sultaneh not to press the matter.

The Idjlal-ed-Dowleh is a relative of the Shoa-es-Sultaneh, and is considered a ruffian even by other members of the Kajar tribe. He was concerned, in 1904, in a brutal assault on the signaller of the Indo-European Telegraph Department at Borasjun. As Mr. Grahame has been trying for over a year to bring him to book for the assault, and has also greatly assisted me in turning the Shoa-es-Sultaneh out of the Governor-Generalship of Fars, I have no doubt that the opportunity of doing His Majesty's Consul a bad turn was considered too good to be lost. I desire to draw your particular attention to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh's confession, made in the presence of Abbas Kuli Khan, that the complaints made against Mr. Grahame and myself in London emanate from the Shoa-es-Sultaneh, and are principally designed to cause difficulties between his Excellency and His Majesty's Legation. As the Mushir-ed-Dowleh and the Shoa-es-Sultaneh are on terms of almost open enmity, there may be some truth in the statement. It would materially assist me in my very difficult work

here if the Persian Minister could be made to understand that unfounded personal complaints against His Majesty's officials in Persia are not viewed with satisfaction in London.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 40.

Mr. E. Grant Duff to Mushir-ed-Dowleh.

March 15, 1906.

THE Meftah-es-Sultaneh recently brought me a message from your Excellency, stating that a few days ago, when the household of his Imperial Highness the Shoa-es-Sultaneh was leaving Shiraz, Mr. Grahame, His Majesty's Consul at that town, and his Indian escort obstructed their passage, and that Mr. Grahame was drilling his sowars in the public street.

I at once requested His Majesty's Consul to furnish me with a Report regarding the occurrence. I have now received it, and it is to the following effect:—

“This complaint emanates from the Idjlal-ed-Dowleh, who was concerned in the attack on our signaller at Borasjun. Last Sunday the Idjlal, riding several hundred yards ahead of the Prince's household, crossed to the far side of the avenue, over 52 yards broad, where I was tent-pegging with my sowars, in presence of some Persian spectators. The Idjlal rode up, brandishing a stick, and proceeded to break up the group, composed of my sowars and the Persians who were looking on. I rode up to the Idjlal and remonstrated with him for raising his stick against my men. He replied that he did so against the crowd, and not against my men. I contradicted this, and bade him remember that he had no right to threaten my sowars. About two hours later Mirza Zaki Khan called and repeated the Idjlal's explanation. I then wrote accepting the latter. I need not say that no attempt of any kind was made either by myself or by my sowars to obstruct the passage of the Prince's household.”

I trust that Mr. Grahame's Report will seem as satisfactory to your Excellency as it appears to me.

Inclosure 2 in No. 40.

Mushir-ed-Dowleh to Mr. E. Grant Duff.

March 18, 1906

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 15th instant, respecting the misbehaviour of the British Consul at Shiraz towards the harem of his Royal Highness the Shoa-es-Sultaneh. Detailed reports have been received on the matter from Shiraz, and it appears that Mr. Grahame has not reported the true facts. It is certain that the Indian sowars were practising in the public road, surrounded by crowds and barring the passage of the Royal Family. The Prince Idjlal-ed-Dowleh proceeded in front to open a passage by dispersing the mob. Although the public road is not a proper place for practising, and the Prince was only trying to open a passage for the carriage by dispersing the sightseers a little, Mr. Grahame, the Consul, instead of showing the respect universally due to the Royal Family, came to the front, insulted the Prince, and used improper language to him.

It is obvious that you will not admit so great an insult from Mr. Grahame to the Royal Family, and you will instruct him to make adequate apology. You will also be good enough to inform me of the result of the steps you may take in the matter, that it may be laid before the Throne.

Inclosure 3 in No. 40.

Mr. E. Grant Duff to Mushir-ed-Dowleh.

March 19, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 18th instant, regarding the alleged action of Mr. Grahame, His Majesty's Consul at Shiraz, in obstructing the passage of the Idjlal-ed-Dowleh, who was travelling with the household of his Imperial Highness the Shoa-es-Sultaneh.

[1647]



In my note of the 15th instant I informed your Excellency of the telegraphic report made by Mr. Grahame in regard to the matter.

I have now requested His Majesty's Consul to furnish me with a more detailed Report, on the arrival of which I shall again have the honour of addressing your Excellency.

Since writing the above I was informed by the Meftah-es-Sultaneh, in presence of Abbas Kuli Khan, that the Persian Government had decided not to press this case. I informed the Meftah that I was glad of this solution, and that it was hardly necessary to say that Mr. Grahame had neither offered any insult to his Imperial Highness the Shoa-es-Sultaneh's household nor had even thought of barring their passage out of Shiraz.

[12933]

No. 41.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 17.)*

(No. 74.)

Sir,

Tehran, March 27, 1906.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 67 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of three letters from the Chief Manager of the Imperial Bank of Persia regarding the run which recently took place on that institution.

On the 14th instant a meeting of certain native bankers connected with Tabreez was held at the Russian Bank, with a view to concerted action against the note issue of the Imperial Bank.

On the following Monday the run began, Mr. Rabino having meanwhile taken adequate precautions to preserve order.

The run lasted till the following Saturday, the bank being closed on the 22nd instant for the Persian New Year and, as usual, on the Friday.

During the four days of the run 254,700 tomans (42,300*l.*) were drawn from the bank, 164,700 tomans (27,310*l.*) by the public and 90,000 tomans (15,000*l.*) by the Russian Bank.

On the 19th I called on Mr. Rabino to inquire whether I could be of any assistance, but he assured me that there was no sort of danger and that the run would be a fiasco.

The Russian Bank deny complicity in this discreditable proceeding, but the statement is hard to reconcile with the meeting of native sarrafs held on their premises, and with the presentations of notes in a noisy and ostentatious manner just at a moment when such action might be supposed to be inconvenient to our bank. As the Imperial Bank of Persia is just now rich and the bazaar poor, M. Grube might have known that a run could not possibly be attended with success, and that Mr. Rabino was prepared to cash on demand every note in circulation in Persia.

It is therefore difficult to understand what could have been the object of a manoeuvre which, if unsuccessful, could hardly fail to increase the local credit of the British Bank. It is stated on fairly good authority that the Russian Ministry of Finance are not altogether satisfied with M. Grube's recent management of their affairs here. M. Grube told me confidentially not long ago that he was soon leaving Persia, and had been offered a post in the Russian State Bank and also a much more lucrative appointment in Nobel's. I gathered that he was hesitating which position to accept, and that his decision would depend on the course of events in Russia.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 41.

*Mr. Rabino to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

Dear Mr. Grant Duff,

Tehran, March 17, 1906.

I HEAR on good authority that, at a meeting of sarrafs, mostly Tabreezis, held at the Russian Bank on Wednesday, it was decided to organize a run on the bank, to be financed by our competitors.

I have taken the necessary steps to preserve order; the money question is not of the slightest importance.

(Private.)

This undignified proceeding on the part of M. Grube only shows how incompetent he is for his post and how little he knows of the financial situation. To attack us at the present moment is to court disaster and confusion.

I am letting the gossips of Tehran know that the Russian Bank has engineered a run on the bank for Monday, and that it may be worth seeing.

The Atabeg at last promises to see me on Wednesday.

Yours, &amp;c.

(Signed) J. RABINO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 41.

*Mr. Rabino to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(Private.)

Dear Mr. Grant Duff,

Tehran, March 21, 1906.

THE run on the bank has completely ceased, both here and at the bazaar, and I do not think it will recommence. The ringleaders are rather sorry for what they have done, and are anxiously denying having had a hand in this "twopenny-halfpenny" plot.

The Banque d'Escompte sent their Controller to protest of their innocence in the matter, but he could not deny that the sarrafs held a meeting last Wednesday at the office of the Banque to concert measures; nor could he deny that, when our central hall was filled by an excited crowd, five cashiers of the Banque came in, noisily demanding 80,000 tomans, and stating that they wanted the money immediately and would take it without counting.

I do not at all go the length of saying, as most people do say, that the movement was financed by our competitor, but most certainly they showed an utter lack of judgment and dignity. As to the Persian authors of the scare, they will only bring confusion and loss on themselves.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) RABINO.

Inclosure 3 in No. 41.

*Imperial Bank of Persia to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

Sir,

Tehran, March 26, 1906.

ON Wednesday, the 14th March, a meeting of certain sarrafs, or native bankers, connected with Tabreez was held at the Banque d'Escompte de Perse with a view to concerted action against the note issue of the Imperial Bank of Persia.

Certain of these sarrafs waited subsequently upon the richest and most important merchant of the place and assured him that the Banque d'Escompte had agreed to finance the movement by opening a very large credit to each of the participants, in order to enable them to collect notes and suddenly present them in large quantities.

On Monday, as agreed upon, the run commenced, and a large crowd of people came to the bank demanding payment of notes, which they had been informed could not be met and which native bankers refused.

There was no disorder, as we had taken the precaution of erecting a strong barrier parallel to the counter to prevent our cashiers from being overwhelmed.

The Banque d'Escompte makes it a rule to inform us by letter a day or two in advance of their intention to present any large amount of notes, in order that steps may be taken for counting the money as quickly as possible. In this case no notice was given, and, at the moment when our offices were filled with an excited crowd, five

cashiers of the Banque d'Escompte came in and demanded immediate payment of 800,000 krans, stating that they would take the money without counting.

The amounts paid out by us were:—

Date.	Public.	Banque d'Escompte.	Total.
	Krans.	Krans.	Krans.
Monday, March 19 .. ..	540,000	800,000	1,340,000
Tuesday, March 20 .. ..	450,000	50,000	500,000
Wednesday, March 21 .. ..	378,000	Closed	378,000
Saturday, March 24 .. ..	279,000	50,000	329,000
Totals for four days .. ..	1,647,000	900,000	2,547,000

As you see, the movement is a complete failure.

We need scarcely remind you that our books and treasury are always open to your inspection, and we can show that we are in a position at present to pay on demand every note in Persia, and, further, our printed balance sheet shows that the bank could at any moment pay the whole note issue in London independently of Persia.

The amount paid out, if converted into European money, is insignificant, but the smallness of the Persian unit—viz., 1 kran or 2 kran—makes the handling of money extremely troublesome and laborious.

The question of coin in Persia is a difficult one on account of the scarcity of currency. In June last year the Banque d'Escompte was on the point of suspending payment in Resht and elsewhere (not that its solvency can be questioned, but because it had not provided coin to meet its engagements); our treasury was opened wide to render them assistance, and they drew from us very large sums in coin.

Their action at that time resulted in a depreciation of the rouble here of 18 per cent. (7th June, 151 roubles = 100 toman, 27th June, 182½ roubles = 100 toman, prices at which we bought transfers on Russia) and in rendering their three months' bills on London unsaleable to the public, we being the only buyers.

In the face of the denial of the Banque d'Escompte of their complicity in this discreditable combination, we do not wish to consider an establishment under the control of the accredited Agent of the Russian Minister of Finance to be chargeable with anything more than a singular breach of banking etiquette in allowing the hostile meetings to be held at its offices and in presenting notes ostentatiously and noisily at a moment when it might be supposed that this would cause us trouble.

We have had to encounter a campaign of misrepresentation and falsehood; it has done us no harm whatever, but it has caused confusion and embarrassment to business and has inflicted loss on poor people, who have been frightened into selling their small notes at a discount to petty money-changers.

We remain, &c.  
(For the Imperial Bank of Persia),  
(Signed) RABINO.

[12934]

No. 42.

Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 75.)

Sir,

Tehran, March 26, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a copy of the note which I addressed to the Persian Government, in obedience to the instructions contained in your telegram No. 38 of the 3rd instant, on the subject of the attack on Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas and Captain Lorimer by the Direkwand Lurs.

In the Mushir-ed-Dowleh's reply, translation of which I have the honour to inclose, you will see that the Persian Government continue to maintain that the principal offenders have already been captured, and that as previous warning was given to Colonel Douglas of the danger of the road no compensation is due.

I also inclose a copy of my letter to the Prince-Governor of Luristan, the Firman Firma having been transferred to Kerman.

I fear that it is unlikely that anything serious will be done to bring the

Direkwand tribe to justice, and that any further note to the Persian Government would merely elicit a repetition of the communications previously received.

The Shah and his advisers are perfectly well aware that His Majesty's Government will not have recourse to forcible measures to obtain the settlement of such cases, and even if His Majesty was willing to coerce the Direkwands, it is uncertain whether the starving and ill-armed Persian troops could make head against brave and hardy mountaineers like the Lurs.

In the absence of instructions to the contrary, I shall continue to press for the arrest of the offenders not yet captured, but I have little reason to think that any further representations will be successful. I presume that His Majesty's Government still object to the payment from the Jask Royalty of the compensation demanded.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 42.

Mr. E. Grant Duff to Mushir-ed-Dowleh.

March 6, 1906.

I DID not fail to submit to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs your note of the 6th January last regarding the attack by the Direkwand Lurs on Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas and Captain Lorimer in the autumn of 1904.

It will be in your Excellency's recollection that the Firman Firma, when Governor of Luristan, promised to undertake an expedition against the Direkwands after the harvest, and I am directed by Sir Edward Grey to urge the Persian Government to take advantage of the present season to secure the punishment of the tribe concerned in the outrage.

As regards the question of compensation, I am instructed to state that, in view of the dilatory and inefficient measures taken by the Persian Government for the punishment of the culprits and the unsatisfactory nature of the results achieved, His Majesty's Government see no reason to modify their attitude.

Inclosure 2 in No. 42.

Mushir-ed-Dowleh to Mr. E. Grant Duff.

(Translation.)

March 13, 1906.

I HAVE received your note of the 6th instant respecting the attack made on Colonel Douglas and Captain Lorimer by some Direkwand Lurs in the autumn of 1904. As you are aware, some of the above-mentioned Lurs have been arrested. You stated that five men in the photograph and of the names sent to you were actually engaged in the attack, and you desired the rest to remain in gaol as a means of arresting the other offenders. They are at present in gaol, but, in spite of careful inquiries made into the matter, no other offender has become known, but it is certain that the five men in question committed the offence.

Under these circumstances no other step remains to be taken which may require instructions to be given.

With regard to the compensation, you state that "in view of the dilatory and inefficient measures taken by the Persian Government for the punishment of the culprits and the unsatisfactory nature of the results achieved His Majesty's Government see no reason to modify their attitude."

On this point I have the honour to refer you to the letter written by Colonel Douglas and Captain Lorimer to the Begler Begi of Kurram Abad after their journey and the incident. These officers were distinctly prohibited on account of the disturbed state of the Lurs and the insecurity of the roads, but they wished to proceed and stipulated that no responsibility would rest with the Government authorities.

Since the officers in question were prohibited from proceeding on their journey on account of the disturbed state of the roads and the tribes, and since they placed themselves in danger by proceeding on the journey with imaginary confidence, no responsibility whatever rests with the Persian Government which would necessitate the payment of compensation. In view of the measures taken for the arrest of the

culprits, how can it be expected that delay should be attributed to the Persian Government and that the efficient steps taken and the results thereof, viz., the arrest and imprisonment of the offenders, should be considered unsatisfactory?

It is obvious that after a little consideration of the details and the measures taken by the Persian Government and after reference to my previous correspondence on the subject you will, with your well-known courtesy, inform your Government of the efficient measures taken by the Persian Government, and the responsibility incurred by Colonel Douglas and Captain Lorimer in travelling by the road in question and in paying no attention to the representations of the local authorities.

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Inclosure 3 in No. 42.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Salar-ed-Dowleh.*

*Tehran, March 13, 1906.*

AS your Imperial Highness is doubtless aware, in the autumn of 1904 certain Direkwand Lurs treacherously attacked Colonel Douglas, Military Attaché of His Majesty's Legation, and Captain Lorimer, His Majesty's Consul at Ahwaz, while travelling between Khoramabad and Dizful. Both the officers mentioned were wounded, the former seriously. The Lurs guilty of this outrage formed the escort of the British officers, and had sworn on the Koran to see them safely to Dizful. I do not know whether your Highness has been informed that your predecessor in the Governorship of Luristan promised early last year to undertake an expedition to punish the Direkwand Lurs for their act of treachery. At the Firman Firma's urgent request His Majesty's Minister consented that the dispatch of the expedition should be delayed till after the harvest. In spite of the promise given by his Highness, no efficient steps have, as far as I know, been taken to capture the offenders, whose names are well known to the Persian Government.

Your Imperial Highness' sense of justice is well known, and I am confident that you will not permit an unprovoked attack on the officers of a friendly Power to go unpunished. As there is still some time before the Direkwand tribe proceed to their summer quarters, I venture to suggest that advantage should be taken of this fact to capture the Mirs concerned in the outrage on our officers.

[12939]

No. 43.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.---(Received April 17.)*

(No. 80.)

Sir,

*Tehran, March 27, 1906.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 17 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit copies of further correspondence regarding the Urmi murder case.

Mr. Pearson has informed me that the United States' Government have granted the request of the Persian Government for a delay of ten months before the assassins of the late Mr. Labaree are brought to justice. I understand that there is no longer any question of holding a joint inquiry, but that the Persian Government have undertaken to discover and punish the murderers.

Meanwhile Mr. Wratislaw has been informed on reliable authority that the Valiahd is trying to induce the accused Kurds to take asylum at the American Mission at Urmi. It would appear from Mr. Wratislaw's telegrams Nos. 17 and 18 that the Kurds have unofficially proposed to come in, and Mr. Pearson is awaiting a communication from the American missionaries before taking any steps in the matter.

I have carefully explained to Mr. Pearson, who imperfectly understands Persian customs, that if the Kurds take "bast" at the American Mission they cannot be given up to justice without endangering the lives of the Christians in the whole district.

Although Mr. Wratislaw thinks that if the culprits were admitted to asylum and forgiven this might be a solution, however imperfect, to a very difficult problem, I am inclined to the view that such a termination to the Urmi case would be hardly satis-

factory. The matter, however, mainly concerns the United States' Government, who will no doubt decide whether or not their citizens can be murdered in this country with impunity.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 43.

*Consul-General Wratislaw to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 7.)

Sir,

*Tabreez, March 3, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to report that Mirza Hussein Agha reached Urmi on the 21st ultimo. A very large crowd went outside the town to meet him, more considerable, in fact, than even that which greeted the Valiahd on his last visit, but no attempt was made to get up any unpleasant demonstration, and the proceedings passed off with perfect decorum.

As I wished to emphasize the fact that the Mujtehid had been brought back with our own consent, I sent a gholam and two sowars to escort him into the town and to congratulate him on his safe arrival. He seems to have been much touched by this attention, and sent his headman next day to thank me, and again on the morrow to wish me a safe journey.

I further learned that he stated in a semi-public manner that he had come to the conclusion that the British Government was the only one that counted, and that he intended in future to put his money on it.

I do not think that, for a considerable time at least to come, there is any reason to anticipate trouble from Mirza Hussein Agha; and the Urmi missionaries, both British and American, tell me that they share this opinion.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 43.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Mr. Pearson.*

Sir,

*Tehran, March 9, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a paraphrase of a telegram from His Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez regarding the Kurds accused of the murder of Mr. Labaree.

I request you to be so good as to let me know what reply you desire sent to Mr. Wratislaw.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) E. GRANT DUFF.

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Inclosure 3 in No. 43.

*Consul-General Wratislaw to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 13.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tabreez, March 8, 1906.*

ACCORDING to reliable information which I have received, the Valiahd is attempting to persuade the accused Kurds to take sanctuary at the American Mission in Urmi. Although it is doubtful whether he will succeed in doing so, in view of their mistrust, it would be as well that, in case they do so, I should know beforehand what I should advise the missionaries to do.

Inclosure 4 in No. 43.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Mr. Pearson.*

Sir, *Tehran, March 12, 1906.*  
I DID not fail to telegraph to His Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez the substance of your letter of the 11th instant, and I have to-day received the following reply from him:—

"Should the Kurds take 'bast' with the American missionaries, and are subsequently surrendered for trial and punishment, the lives of the American citizens concerned will certainly be exposed to risk, and their continued residence in that neighbourhood be rendered practically impossible. I must decline to take any responsibility for security of the said Americans, for whom I have done my best. I shall convey to them the views of the United States' Minister, at the same time informing them that I cannot advise them how to act."

I have, &c.  
(Signed) E. GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 5 in No. 43.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Consul-General Wratislaw.*

(No. 10.) *Tehran, March 14, 1906.*  
Sir, WITH reference to previous correspondence regarding the Urmi murder case, I am informed by the United States' Minister here that the United States' Government have granted the request of the Persian Government for a delay of ten months before the assassins of the late Mr. Labaree are brought to justice.

I understand from Mr. Pearson that there is no longer any question of holding a joint inquiry, but that the Persian Government have undertaken to discover and punish the murderers.

I inclose correspondence with Mr. Pearson as marked in the margin. In reply to my request to know what answer he desired forwarded to your telegram of the 13th instant, the United States' Minister merely sent an acknowledgment of the receipt of my letter.

In a long conversation which I had with him yesterday I pointed out the danger and difficulties which might ensue should the Kurds take refuge with the American missionaries at Urmi. Mr. Pearson, however, did not appear to think it necessary to interfere, and I, of course, made it quite clear to him that our responsibility in the matter was now at an end.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) E. GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 6 in No. 43.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Mr. Pearson.*

Sir, *Tehran, March 22, 1906.*  
I HAVE the honour to transmit a paraphrase of a telegram from His Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez stating that the Kurds have unofficially asked the American missionaries, through the Governor of Urmi, to give them asylum.

Mr. Wratislaw, to whom I have telegraphed for further explanations, recommends that the offer of the Kurds be accepted with a view to close the case.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) E. GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 7 in No. 43.

*Consul-General Wratislaw to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 17.) *Tabreez, March 22, 1906.*  
(Telegraphic.) P. ENGLISH missionary at Urmi informs me in a letter that asylum has been requested from the American missionaries by the Kurds through the Governor, who states that it is not an official proposal. The missionaries have asked Mr. Pearson by letter for instructions, before the receipt of which they will not reply to the Kurds.

I consider that this offer had better be accepted, and the incident closed, in view of the fact that there is no prospect of the Kurds being punished, and all efforts for two years have been unsuccessful. Refusal would probably be a pretext for open hostilities, as the attitude of the Kurds is most threatening at present.

It would be advisable for me to discuss the matter with the Valiahd, if there is any prospect of the United States' Government consenting.

Inclosure 8 in No. 43.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Mr. Pearson.*

Sir, *Tehran, March 23, 1906.*  
I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith paraphrases of two telegrams which I have received from His Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez with regard to the Labaree murder case.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) E. GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 9 in No. 43.

*Consul-General Wratislaw to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 18.) *Tabreez, March 22, 1906.*  
(Telegraphic.) P. SINCE I sent my telegram No. 17, an American missionary has written me a letter which confirms the statement of the English missionary, with the exception that it is not clear whether the Kurds authorized the Governor to make the proposal. Copies of two letters addressed by the American missionary to the United States' Minister have been forwarded to me. In these he urges that careful consideration should be given to the proposal, and implies that in order to put an end to a critical situation he desires to accept it, at the same time acknowledging that intrinsically such a solution is not the best possible.

Inclosure 10 in No. 43.

*Consul-General Wratislaw to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 19.) *Tabreez, March 23, 1906.*  
(Telegraphic.) P. YOUR telegram of the 22nd March.

If asylum were granted it would mean that the culprits were forgiven and the case dropped. This is far from an ideal solution, although according to local ideas it would save our face, and if I saw any reasonable prospect of a more satisfactory conclusion I would not recommend it. The American missionaries, including the murdered man's father, who after all are the persons most concerned, prefer it to an indefinite prolongation of an intolerable state of things.



Inclosure 11 in No. 43.

*Mr. Pearson to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

Dear Mr. E. Grant Duff,

*Tehran, March 24, 1906.*

I THANK you for your notes of the 22nd and 23rd instant, inclosing further telegrams from His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General Wratistlaw in relation to the proposed "asylum" of the Kurds.

I have not yet received the views of the missionaries on the subject, and shall await their communication before taking further action in the matter.

Yours, &c.  
(Signed) R. PEARSON.

[12940]

No. 44.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 17.)*

(No. 81.)

Sir,

*Tehran, March 27, 1906.*

ON receipt of your telegram No. 37 of the 2nd instant I instructed Mr. Consul Grahame to communicate with the Vazir-i-Makhsus, High Commissioner of Fars, with a view, if possible, to obtain an apology from the Serdar-i-Akram for his action in ordering to be beaten a muleteer sent from the British Consulate to the local authorities to give evidence in a case of robbery of British owned goods.

On the 4th instant Mr. Grahame addressed the letter, copy of which is inclosed, to the Vazir-i-Makhsus, and also spoke to his Excellency in regard to the desired apology. He has since informed me that there is no probability of settling the matter locally, the Serdar-i-Akram having declined to apologize, although pressed to do so by the High Commissioner.

In these circumstances, and in view of the attitude taken up with regard to the case by the Persian Government as stated in your despatch No. 13 of the 6th ultimo, I submit that further representations here are unlikely to serve any useful purpose.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 44.

*Consul Grahame to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 22.)

Sir,

*Shiraz, March 7, 1906.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 15, on the subject of the Serdar-i-Akram's failure to accede to your demand that he should tender an apology to me in the matter of a muleteer sent from the Consulate as a witness in a robbery case and beaten by his Excellency, I have now the honour to inclose a copy of a private letter addressed by me on the 4th March to his Excellency Vazir-i-Makhsus in accordance with your telegram above referred to.

In reply to my request for an interview this morning (Wednesday) his Excellency excused himself on the ground of to-day being the Tehran mail day, and fixed to-morrow afternoon for my visit.

I hope to report to you by next mail the result of the interview.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) G. GRAHAME.

Inclosure 2 in No. 44.

*Mr. Grahame to the Vazir-i-Makhsus.*

*March 4, 1906.*

I MUCH regret that I should be obliged to trouble your Excellency in the following matter of which perhaps you may already have been informed. In the month of Shaban last a muleteer, to whom certain British merchandize had been intrusted, was sent by this Consulate to the Karguzari for inquiry before the Fars

authorities as to a theft of a portion of the above merchandize. His Excellency, the Serdar-i-Akram saw fit to cause the muleteer to be beaten. His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, considering that it is altogether unsuitable and derogatory to the honour of the British Consulate that a person sent by it as a witness to the Persian authorities should be beaten, demanded from the Persian Foreign Office that the Serdar-i-Akram should call in person at this Consulate and offer me an apology for his unsuitable conduct in this matter, but up to the present his Excellency has not taken this step.

I am in receipt to-day of a telegram from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires suggesting that I should refer to your Excellency in this matter, in the hope that with your devotion to your Government you may see how necessary it is that the demand of His Majesty's Legation should be complied with, and that the unusual conduct of the Serdar-i-Akram should not be allowed to cause any diminution in the friendship between the two High Powers.

I will not hide from you that this complaint has reached the Foreign Office in London, and has given rise to an exchange of views between the Foreign Office and his Excellency the Persian Minister.

As I understand that the Serdar-i-Akram is leaving in a few days I would press this matter urgently on your attention. I inclose a copy of the statement of the muleteer, S. Khoda Rahm.

I shall be happy to call on your Excellency on Wednesday before midday at any hour which may suit your convenience to speak to you about this matter, and also about others, the delay in settlement of which is a source of regret to my Legation.

[12941]

No. 45.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 17.)*

(No. 82.)

Sir,

*Tehran, March 28, 1906.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 24 of the 31st January, I have the honour to transmit herewith a translation of the autograph letters addressed by the Shah to the Ulema and the Grand Vizier regarding the Courts of Justice which it is proposed to establish throughout the country.

There is still a great deal of talk here with respect to the establishments of these Courts, but as far as I am aware, no definite steps have been taken to establish them.

The original autographs have been photographed, and distributed freely among the people.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 45.

*Letter addressed by the Shah to the High Ulema.*

(May God preserve them.)

WE have been informed of the messages sent by you to his Highness the Grand Vizier through Agha Mirza Mustafa, Mirza Abul Kassim, Agha Mirza Momen, and the Etemad-ul-Islam. May it be known to the high and exalted Ulema that our benevolence has always been extended to all our subjects, especially to the Ulema, who pray for our Government, and who are the well-wishers of our Royal person, and we have always paid the utmost attention to their reasonable requests.

Now that his Highness the Grand Vizier has laid before us your requests, we have issued an autograph on the margin of his petition, which will be duly communicated to you. You may have perfect confidence in coming to the town, where you will, accompanied by the Grand Vizier, have the honour of an audience in order that we may convey to you verbally the assurances of our goodwill and kindness towards you, so that you may be at ease in offering your prayers for the prosperity of our Government.

(Signature of His Majesty the Shah.)

*Zikede, 1323 Hijreh.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 45.

*Letter addressed by the Shah to the Grand Vizier.*

AS we have often stated, the institution of Courts of Justice, where the Shar' laws can be carried out, is a most necessary and important matter. For this sacred object we distinctly command the immediate establishment of the laws of Islam throughout the Persian Empire, defining the limits and putting into execution the religious commandments in such a way that there should be no distinction between the different classes of the people, and as it will be inserted in the Codes, no preference will be given to anyone whatsoever. The Codes shall be drawn up in accordance with the religious laws, and submitted to us in order that we may make arrangements for the proper Courts in all the provinces. As a matter of course, such requests on the part of the Ulema will be always accepted, because it increases their prayers for us. This autograph should be communicated to all the provinces.

(Signature of His Majesty the Shah.)

*Zikede, 1323 Hijreh.*

[12942]

No. 46.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 17.)*

(No. 83.)

Sir,

*Tehran, March 28, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith the monthly summary of events in Persia which have not been recorded in separate despatches.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure in No. 46.

*Monthly Summary of Events in Persia, March 29, 1906.**Meshed.*

THE Asaf-ed-Dowleh has been reappointed Governor-General of Khorasan for the ensuing year.

2. There was a good deal of apprehension among Armenians and other non-Mussulmans in Meshed at the commencement of the Moharram, as they feared that the fanaticism of the people might be aroused against them. Many of them sent their families away to Askhabad, and the Russian Armenians were collected into a house near their Consulate-General. Various precautionary measures were taken by the Governor-General to prevent disturbances: some known bad characters were seized and deported, and the formation of processions was forbidden, with the result that up to the present no disorder has been reported.

3. Orders sanctioning the admission of the English telegraphist to the Persian office at Turbat-i-Haideri were received last month.

4. Major Sykes had an official interview with MM. Molitor and Cesari of the Customs Department on the subject of the murders of Persians by Afghans near Yazdan. The matter has now been taken up by the Governor of Herat, who has handed over the son of the murdered man, who had been carried off.

5. M. Molitor is using his best endeavours for the establishment of a postal service between Yezd and Tabas, which has been advocated for some months by Major Sykes in the interests of British trade. The Director-General of Customs at Tehran has also been addressed on the subject by His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires.

6. The Fakhim-ul-Mulk, ex-Karguzar of Kuchan, has been appointed to Seistan, and has been summoned to Tehran to receive instructions before proceeding to take up his post.

7. The Russian colony at Meshed is about to be increased by the addition of four prostitutes, imported for the benefit of the Cossacks now stationed here.

*Seistan.*

1. The Yamin-i-Nizam left Seistan at the beginning of February and has arrived in Tehran, whence he is going to join the Commission which has been appointed to inquire into the frontier dispute with Turkey.

2. The Persian post between Seistan and the Beluchistan frontier was robbed by Afghans at the end of January. An attempt was made on the same day to rob the Consular post, but the sowar who was carrying it was able to make his escape.

3. The price of grain in Seistan is at present extremely high, and it is difficult to obtain supplies. This is due in a great measure to the action of the Deputy Governor, who forced the villagers to buy the revenue grain at an exorbitant rate. The Itisham-il-Wuzara has, since his arrival, forbidden the Headmen of villages to sell grain at a higher rate than 10 tomans a "kharvar," which is less than half what it cost them; and the consequence is that they now refuse to sell at all. Many of the people are now reported to be almost starving, and a number of Headmen have taken asylum in the custom-house as a protest against the Government, and have petitioned to Tehran. It was feared that unless some redress was obtained the discontent might lead to rioting.

4. The Japanese traveller, M. Suzuki, whose movements have been reported in former summaries, arrived in Seistan in February, and wished to go on to India by the trade route. The Government of India, however, were unwilling to allow him to do so, and he is believed to have gone on via Kerman. His Majesty's Consul took him to call on the Russian community, but they refused to see him on the plea of illness.

5. The Deputy Governor of Seistan has announced his intention of giving up his post at the Nauruz (21st March), when he expects to be replaced by his brother, Sartip Mohammad Reza Khan.

6. The telegraph line from Meshed has been repaired between Birjand and Seistan by the Russian constructor. The portion between Birjand and Kain suffered considerably from storms in February, and communication was interrupted for four days.

7. Dr. Sven Hedin arrived at Tabas on the 28th February, and was expected to reach Seistan soon afterwards. Mr. Grant Duff informed the Swedish Minister in Paris of Dr. Hedin's arrival.

8. Owing to fear of plague the Russian Consul in Seistan has provisioned his entire establishment for a month and closed the Consulate offices, refusing admission even to Europeans. The Russian Bank is also closed, and business suspended indefinitely.

9. M. Molitor left for Tehran on the 28th March.

*Kerman.*

1. Several robberies have recently taken place at caravanserais in Kerman, and a caravan was also robbed on the Yezd road. The merchants have consequently telegraphed to Tehran pointing out the insecurity of property in the district. They also complain of the inconvenience caused by the impossibility of getting any cases settled pending the arrival of the new Governor, and Mr. Grant Duff has mentioned the subject to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, who has promised redress. Among other cases was that of urgently needed repairs to a watercourse at Nasratabad Sipi, on which the telegraph station is dependent, which it was also proposed to defer until the arrival of the Firman Firma; but on the representations of His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires orders have now been sent for the work to be done at once.

2. A wealthy resident of Kerman named Nurullah Khan is anxious to make a road thence to Meshed, along which he proposed to build rest-houses and provide for an efficient supply of water. The primary object of the road would be for the convenience of pilgrims, and his scheme includes the provision of an annual sum of about 2,000L., which he would leave in trust to his eldest son. He has twice called on His Majesty's Consul to ascertain whether the latter would undertake to supervise the maintenance of the road, but no definite reply has been given pending a reference which has been made to the Persian Government on the subject.

3. The Sardar Agha, local head of the Sheikhi sect, died at Mahun a few weeks ago.

[1647]

M

*Ahwaz.*

1. It now appears that the Moin-ut-Tujjar has ordered a stern-wheel steamer of 80 tons capacity from a firm in Glasgow, which he intends to run on the Karun between Mohammerah and Ahwaz. He also expresses his intention of deepening the channel of the Ab-i-Gargar (the branch of the river up which the steamers to Shelailieh now run), for which purpose he will divert the water into the Ab-i-Shateit. By this means he hopes to make the channel navigable right up to Shuster.

2. The Russian Consul-General at Bushire, accompanied by Prince Amatouni, is expected to visit Ahwaz during the spring.

3. It is difficult to draw any conclusions regarding the state of affairs in the Bakhtiari country. A few small collisions appear to have taken place between the adherents of the rival factions, and there has been some raiding on the road between Shuster and Dizful, but the Chiefs now in Tehran have sent orders to their followers to abstain from hostilities, and the country seems, on the whole, to be fairly quiet.

4. The Governor of Dizful has received the title of Serdar-i-Mokarrem in place of that of Salar Moazzam, as a reward for his services in the expedition against the Beni Truf. Various instances of his oppression are recorded in the diary of His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Ahwaz.

*Shiraz.*

1. Shiraz has been fairly quiet during the past month, though there is still a certain amount of uneasiness, and the Jews are practically confined to their own quarter of the town. A report that the Shoa-es-Sultaneh was to return occasioned a slight demonstration.

2. The road to Bushire appears now to be safer than it has been of late. Transport from Shiraz to Ispahan is at present extremely difficult to obtain, the high rates prevailing on the Bushire road having attracted all the muleteers thither.

*Ispahan.*

The Russian Consul-General, Prince Dabija, returned to Ispahan last month. M. Tchirkine, who has been Acting Consul, has left here for Bombay, and a M. Gregorieff has replaced him as Secretary.

*Tabreez.*

1. Some fighting is reported to have taken place between the rival Armenian revolutionary parties near Salmas, and a party of horsemen were sent from Tabreez to restore order. Mr. Wratislaw considers it very desirable that these revolutionaries should be cleared out of the district, as their provocative attitude is a constant source of danger, and might at any moment lead to an outbreak of fanaticism on the part of the Mussulmans, who are already restless on account of the disturbances in the Caucasus.

2. Zafer-es-Sultaneh, lately Governor of Kerman, has been appointed Governor of Urmi. He has held the post before and was not a conspicuous success. Sahem-es-Sultaneh has gone as Governor to Ardebil.

3. A Russian Commission arrived at Tabreez on the 10th March, in order to investigate charges of malversation brought against the contractor of the Julfa-Tabreez road.

*Resht.*

1. The Commission which has been appointed to inspect the roads recently constructed by the Russian Company arrived in Resht early this month, and, after inspecting the harbour works at Enzeli, left on the 28th March for the Kasvin-Hamadan road. The Russian Consul at Resht accompanies the Commission.

2. M. Kajejvinkoff, a "jeune de langues" attached to the Russian Legation, was found dead in his bed at the post-house at Yuzbashi Chai on the 6th instant. The deceased gentleman, who was in bad health, was travelling to Resht on his way to Russia, and is believed to have died from an overdose of chloral. His body was taken into Resht for a post-mortem examination.

*Tehran.*

1. *Turco-Persian Frontier Dispute.*—Serdar Kul (Vezir Nizam) has been appointed Commander-in-chief of the Azerbaijan Army, and ordered to proceed immediately to Tabreez, and to send 15,000 men to the Lahijan frontier to support the Persian Delegates, Nazim-ul-Mulk and Yamin-i-Nizam, on the Frontier Commission. No arrangements have, however, been made to supply the Serdar with the requisite funds for the purpose, and, being pressed by the Grand Vizier to undertake the task, he has taken sanctuary with his Highness.

2. *Ministry of Telegraphs.*—Sepahdar (Nasr-es-Sultaneh) has succeeded Mukber-ed-Dowleh as Minister of Telegraphs, and has farmed the Ministry for five years at 200,000 tomans per annum. He has paid 30,000 tomans to the Shah and 20,000 tomans to the Grand Vizier as "pishkesh" over and above the stipulated sum, and of the 200,000 tomans, half has been paid in advance and the remainder will be paid in ten instalments. It has been stipulated that, should he wish to withdraw from the Ministry before the expiration of five years, he will have to pay the whole of the current year's rent (i.e., 200,000 tomans). The Mukber-ed-Dowleh, who paid 30,000 tomans yearly for many years, was raised successively by the present Grand Vizier to 60,000 tomans and 80,000 tomans, but refused to pay any more. The Sepahdar proposes to reorganize the telegraph service, and his son, who has been educated in Russia, will be placed in charge. He hopes by refusing to send telegrams for the Government and Court officials free of charge, as has heretofore been the custom, and with other reforms to make the telegraphs pay the largely increased sum he has offered the Shah. It is considered, however, that he will lose a good deal of money over the transaction.

The Mukber-ed-Dowleh will probably proceed on a journey to Europe.

3. *Foreign Office Appointments.*—Yamin-ul-Mamalek has left for Bagdad to succeed Mirza Ali Akber Khan as Consul-General.

Etela-ed-Dowleh appointed Karguzar in Seistan to succeed Mirza Moosa Khan, who replaces him at Mohammerah.

4. *Sani-ed-Dowleh's Automobile Concession.*—Sani-ed-Dowleh has borrowed 30,000 tomans from the Imperial Bank and 30,000 tomans from the heirs of the late Sepah Salar, and has ordered six motor cars for transport purposes, which he proposes to use between Resht and Tehran as a beginning.

5. His Majesty the Shah continues in relatively good health.

6. Polo on the Maidan has been discontinued in the following circumstances: One day while play was proceeding a Seyyed who was looking on quarrelled with a Cossack placed by the Colonel of the Brigade to keep order on the ground. The Cossack drew his sword and cut off the Seyyed's ear. The latter then went to the Mollahs and complained. Colonel Tchernozebouff subsequently called on Mr. Grant Duff, and informed him that some of the Mollahs had tried to induce him to say that the Cossack had cut off the Seyyed's ear by order of a member of the British Legation. Colonel Tchernozebouff, however, answered that the Cossack was to blame, and that the British Legation had had nothing to do with the matter. A few days after the incident the Shah sent a message to Mr. Grant Duff asking that polo on the Maidan should be discontinued as likely to lead to trouble.

[12943]

No. 47.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 17.)*

(No. 84.)  
Sir,

*Tehran, March 28, 1906.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 59 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of correspondence with the Bakhtiari Chief, Shahab-es-Sultaneh, regarding the payment of the sum of 2,000*l.* due yearly under the Agreement to the signatory Chiefs.

You will see that the two Chiefs now here, Samsam-es-Sultaneh and Shahab-es-Sultaneh, agree to the proposed arrangement whereby the Oil Syndicate will pay to each of the four signatory Chiefs one-fourth of the 500*l.* due quarterly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.



## Inclosure 1 in No. 47.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Shahab-es-Sultaneh.**Tehran, March 9, 1906.*

IN the conversation I had the honour to have with your Excellency yesterday afternoon I informed you that the Oil Syndicate had sent firm instructions to Mr. Reynolds to pay the sum due quarterly under the Agreement to the owner only of the four Chiefs who signed that Agreement.

As I also had the honour to state, the Oil Syndicate are quite willing to pay quarterly to each of the four signatory Chiefs one-fourth of the 500*l.* due.

On hearing from your Excellency that you prefer the latter arrangement, I will at once inform His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who will no doubt communicate with the Oil Syndicate.

## Inclosure 2 in No. 47.

*Samsam-es-Sultaneh and Shahab-es-Sultaneh to Mr. E. Grant Duff.**[Received March 9, 1906.]*

WE have received your kind letter and are much obliged for the representations made by you with regard to the petroleum, and the arrangements made in accordance with the second proposal that the money for the guarding should be paid quarterly to four of us, and we should receive our share separately. We accept this arrangement, and you may kindly get everybody's share paid to himself.

[12944]

No. 18.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 17.)*

(No. 85.)

Sir,

*Tehran, March 28, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of correspondence with the Grand Vizier regarding the action of the Salar Arfa, one of the minor Bakhtiari Chiefs, in withdrawing the guards placed by the Samsam-es-Sultaneh on the works of the Oil Syndicate at Marmaten.

I understand that the guards have now been replaced.

Haji Ali Kuli Khan, Sardar Assad and present Ilkhani of the Bakhtiaris, is expected at Tehran in ten days, and I hope then to come to an understanding as regards the Bakhtiari road, and to do what I properly can to arrange the family quarrels which are now disturbing the tribe.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

## Inclosure 1 in No. 48.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Grand Vizier.*

(After compliments.)

*February 18, 1906.*

I HAVE received information that the Salar Arfa has driven away the guards sent by the Samsam-es-Sultaneh to protect the oil wells. I therefore request your Excellency to be so good as to send immediate orders to Murteza Kuli Khan and Moin-i-Homayun at Ram Hormuz to place a guard on the oil wells, and to direct Salar Arfa to desist from giving trouble.

## Inclosure 2 in No. 48.

*Grand Vizier to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(After compliments.)

*February 27, 1906.*

I HAVE received your note of the 18th instant respecting the guards of the oil wells. I have, as requested by you, telegraphed to the Salar Arfa, Murteza Kuli Khan, and the Moin-i-Homayun.

## Inclosure 3 in No. 48.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Grand Vizier.*

(After compliments.)

*February 28, 1906.*

I HAD the honour to receive your Highness' note of the 27th instant, in which you inform me that the telegraphic orders for the replacing of the guards on the works of the Oil Company have been sent. I am much obliged to your Highness for the measures which you have been so good as to take. I have now heard from a trustworthy source that the Sardar Assad has seized the bridge on the Bakhtiari road at Godar-i-Balutak and has driven away the guards stationed there. I have the honour to request your Excellency to send immediate orders to Sarem-ul-Mulk to replace the guards formerly posted at the bridge.

I need not remind your Highness of the important British interests which may be affected by anything approaching to disorder in the Bakhtiari country, and I look to your Highness to take efficient steps for the protection of those interests.

## Inclosure 4 in No. 48.

*Grand Vizier to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(After compliments.)

*March 4, 1906.*

I HAVE received your note of the 28th February respecting the objections raised by the Sardar Asad in connection with the guards of the oil wells.

Although I have not yet received a reply to the telegram sent a few days ago on the subject, I have again asked for explanations by telegraph, and sent the necessary orders. I will inform you of the result.

[12946]

No. 49.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 17.)*

(No. 87.)

Sir,

*Tehran, March 29, 1906.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 52 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a Report from His Majesty's Consul in Seistan,\* giving details of a meeting of the Sanitary Council on the 10th ultimo, and other matters of interest connected with the plague epidemic.

On the 1st instant the Government of India informed me that specimens of blood examined at the Plague Research Laboratory at Bombay were found to contain microbes resembling those of bubonic plague. There is therefore practically no further doubt that the disease now existing in Seistan is true plague, and not the local complaint known as "daghi." I duly informed the Tehran Sanitary Council of the result of the bacteriological examination at Bombay. Reports have been spread in Persia that plague exists in Afghanistan, but His Majesty's Consul-General at Meshed states that this is denied by the Governor of Herat. The average number of deaths from plague are, according to the latest statistics, three per day, and the total mortality up to date 300 to 400.

The disease does not, for the moment, appear to show any tendency to spread beyond Seistan, but the President of the Sanitary Council informs me that it may not improbably appear in Khorassan.

\* Inclosure to Captain Macpherson's Diary, No. 6, February 8 to 14, 1906.

[1647]

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I have also the honour to transmit the *procès-verbal* of the meeting of the Tehran Sanitary Council on the 5th instant.\* Further copies of this document will be sent when received.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

[12947]

No. 50.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 17.)*

(No. 88.)

Sir,

Tehran, March 29, 1906.

IN my telegram No. 73 of the 23rd instant I had the honour to give a full report of my audience with His Majesty the Shah on the 23rd instant on the subject of the dispute between Turkey and Persia regarding the frontier in the Lahijan district.

I inclose a copy of a letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas, Military Attaché of His Majesty's Legation, recording a conversation which he had yesterday with His Imperial Highness the Naib-es-Sultaneh, Minister of War, in regard to the same subject. The Prince gave Colonel Douglas to understand that there was no intention on the part of the Persian Government of declaring war on Turkey, and he apparently realized the unpreparedness of the Persian army for a campaign.

The Naib-es-Sultaneh's remarks do not accord with the statement of the Minister of the Court to me that a large camp was being formed on the Russian frontier of Azerbaijan. His Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez has heard nothing of such military preparations, and I am inclined to doubt whether any such step has been taken.

I learn that a Persian Commission, headed by the Nazim-ed-Dowleh, accompanied by the Yamin-i-Nizam, of Scistan fame, and perhaps by M. de Brueq, a Belgian engineer, is about to leave Tehran to meet Djavid Pasha and a Turkish Commission on the frontier.

The French Chargé d'Affaires recently told me that the firm of Schneider, of Creuzot, had up to the present wisely declined to supply the arms mentioned by the Naib-es-Sultaneh, no money being apparently available for payment.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure in No. 50.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 23.)

Sir,

Tehran, March 29, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to report that I called yesterday on His Imperial Highness the Naib-es-Sultaneh, Minister of War, in order to try and discover whether there is any truth in the rumours now current of the dispatch of Persian troops towards the Turkish frontier.

His Highness received me most cordially, and, in reply to my inquiries, assured me that there was no intention of sending any large number of troops to Lahijan. The Sardar-i-Kol was, he said, being sent to Tabreez on appointment as Commander of the troops in the Province of Azerbaijan, with instructions to reorganize the army there in general, and only a small force of infantry, without any guns, was to go to the frontier to act as an escort to the Persian Commissioner, and also to keep the local tribes quiet. I might rest assured that Persia had no intention of declaring war against Turkey. War, His Highness justly remarked, requires preparation, and the preparations of the Persian army are not at present very far advanced.

The Prince then proceeded to question me somewhat closely regarding the Turkish army and the number of troops at the Sultan's disposal, and seemed surprised when I informed him that, by mobilizing the two army corps that are nearest to the Persian frontier, a force of about 250,000 men could be collected. It was, he said, a larger number than Persia could produce, adding, with a confidence which I do not fully share, "mais les Persans sont plus héros que les Turcs." His Highness also informed

\* Not printed.

me that His Majesty the Shah, during his recent visit to Europe, had purchased, or made arrangements for purchasing, in France some 200,000 to 300,000 rifles and fifty cannon. He was not sure of the system, but I understood him to say that they included "des canons Schneider" [? Creuzot]. These have not yet arrived in Persia, but may do so shortly.

The general impression left upon me by the conversation was that the Minister for War quite recognizes the inability of Persia to oppose Turkey by force, and is doubtless correct in his statement that only a small number of troops will be sent to the disputed territory; but the sudden resolve to reorganize the troops in Azerbaijan—a scheme which, I understand, is likely to fall through owing to the neglect of the Government to provide the necessary funds—is prompted mainly, if not entirely, by the desire to back by some show of force the arguments of the Persian Frontier Commissioner.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. A. DOUGLAS, Lieutenant-Colonel,  
Military Attaché.

[12948]

No. 51.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 17.)*

(No. 89.)

Sir,

Tehran, March 29, 1906.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 60 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a note from the Persian Government embodying their objections to the Arbitral Award given by Colonel MacMahon in regard to the water of the Helmund River.

The inclosed note is so involved and badly written that it is very difficult to translate into English. In these circumstances, I have thought it better to send a copy of the original Persian, as well as a literal translation, both to you and to the Government of India.

You will observe that the Persian Government state that the Yamin-i-Nizam was not authorized to communicate to the Afghan Government his letter regarding the Award, to which reference is made in Lord Lansdowne's telegram to me No. 91 of the 1st December, 1905. The objections raised by the Persian Government to Colonel MacMahon's Award appear to be, briefly, as follows:—

1. The Arbitrator has not kept to the Goldsmid Award, but has only adopted that Award as interpreted by the British Foreign Office. The Afghans are permitted to open up old canals and construct new ones, while the Persian inhabitants are deprived of this right.
2. Although Colonel MacMahon was aware that the Persians held over 500,000 acres of arable land, the share of the water awarded is only sufficient to irrigate 200,000 acres. Persia claims two-thirds of the water instead of one-third as awarded, their cultivated lands being double the extent of those held by the Afghans.
3. The Afghans will alone be able to cultivate the whole of their available land, and this will lead to the emigration of Persian peasants to Afghanistan.
4. The restriction relating to the alienation of water to a third party should be applied not only to Persia, but also to Afghanistan. The Goldsmid Award contains no reference to such a restriction.
5. If the Arbitral Award had been given in accordance with the Goldsmid Award, the appointment of a permanent water engineer would have been unnecessary.

In accordance with the instructions contained in your telegram No. 41 of the 6th instant, I addressed to the Persian Government the note, copy of which I have the honour to transmit, stating that if the Persian Government desire to persist in their refusal to accept the Water Award, they should submit a reasoned appeal in due form for your decision.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 51.

*Mushir-ed-Dowleh to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(Translation.)

February 22, 1906.

I HAVE received your note of the 2nd December last respecting the letter addressed by the Yamin-i-Nizam to the Government of Afghanistan about the non-acceptance of Colonel MacMahon's Award. This matter caused surprise to the Persian Government, as no instructions whatever had been given to the Yamin-i-Nizam to that effect. Telegraphic orders were immediately sent to him to withdraw his letter if he has taken such a measure.

In reply to your letters and to Sir A. Hardinge's previous notes, I have now to point out that since Colonel MacMahon's arbitration we have constantly received unexpected reports as to the nature of the arbitration, but in view of the justice and impartiality of the English Commissioner, we were waiting for the arrival of written reports on the subject.

After the arrival of the reports in question, notwithstanding the confidence felt by the Persian Government in the justice and equity of the English Commissioner, the remarks constantly made by the Persian officials, as well as by the inhabitants of Seistan, caused hesitation to the Persian Government, who did not see their way to approve the Arbitral Award. Since then frequent representations have been made to the British Legation on the subject, and in view of this fact I did not expect you to state that, unless the appeal was made within a reasonable time, the British Government will consider the Award final. You are justified in the point that the Persian Government should represent its objections to the arbitral decision to the British Government, who will be prepared to review the Award; and consequently the Persian Government, who trusts in the good-will of the English Government in seeing justice done in the arbitral decision, transmits to you in a separate document its objections, which you will be good enough to communicate to your Government and obtain for it as soon as possible and according to its expectations a satisfactory reply amending the Award.

Inclosure 2 in No. 51.

*Note communicated by the Persian Government to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

ALTHOUGH Colonel MacMahon restricts his Award by clauses 5 and 6 to General Goldsmid's Award in respect of water, he refers in the 7th clause to the Goldsmid Award, and quotes the interpretation given to it by the English Foreign Office, and the former arbitration, to which the Persian Commissioner has strongly objected. There is no doubt that the interpretation referred to is prejudicial to the Persian Government, since it recommends the repair and construction of the old unused canals and does not prevent the excavation of new ones, provided that the water is not diminished. This ties our hands, and we have to be content with the present state of the district, which runs the risk of a dearth of water in the future. The reason is that the old and unused Persian canals begin to run from the Helmund in Afghan territory, and consequently a large extent of the Persian lands, which could be cultivated by irrigation, will be left waste. On the other hand, the Afghans will be free to irrigate their unused arable lands by the old and unused as well as by the new canals.

2. All the peasants and inhabitants of Seistan, as well as fishermen and owners of cattle, used to take great advantage of the Seistan, Rudi Parian, and other streams flowing from the Helmund, and only a small portion of the water formerly flowed into Afghanistan. After Colonel MacMahon's decision there has been a change in the division of the water, and according to clauses 2, 3, and 4, the Persians have to receive one-third, but the Afghans two-thirds. On what ground and for what reason the water has thus been divided is not known.

According to MacMahon's information, there were 500,000 acres of arable lands, and one-third of the Helmund water is sufficient to irrigate 200,000 acres. It therefore appears that our share of the water is not sufficient to irrigate one-half of our arable lands, whilst if the whole water of the Helmund River were used for agricultural purposes the arable lands of Persia would be much more than 500,000 acres, because the Hamun and Naizars would be dried up. If the water is to be divided in proportion to the cultivation of both sides, two-thirds of it should belong to Persia.

3. The water of the canals running to the south of Banderi-Kamal Khan and north of Naizar have so far been sufficient for the cultivation on the bank of the Helmund. Now Colonel MacMahon allows the old canals on both sides to be repaired and new ones to be constructed. This arrangement has certainly been made in favour of Afghanistan, because its share of the water is two-thirds, and it is also allowed to excavate new canals, and in a short time it will be able to bring the lands on the right bank of the river, as well as the lands recently assigned to it by Colonel MacMahon, under cultivation, while a great extent of the Persian lands will be left uncultivated.

4. According to clause 7 of Colonel MacMahon's decision, the rights of the Persian Government to the Helmund water are very much restricted, but, on the other hand, the Afghans are entirely free, and they can even themselves divide the water of the river. The restriction which prevents Persia from alienating its rights on the water to any foreign Government without the consent of Afghanistan is unreasonable, because the Persian Government, who know for certain that the water is not sufficient for their Seistan lands, will not alienate it to a second party. If Colonel MacMahon wishes to put any restriction on Persia he should have done the same with Afghanistan, in order that the latter should not be able to alienate to a second Power, without the consent of Persia, the important part of Seistan (and its waters), which, at the time of the former arbitration, were the property and in the possession of Persia, and which, according to the Goldsmid Agreement, the Persian Government assigned to Afghanistan, withdrawing its garrisons from the important points of Kaleh Fath, Nad-Ali, &c. The restriction in question should equally apply to the two parties, because it has affected the Persian Government in its honour and superiority, which it was the object of Article VII of the Treaty of Paris to uphold, which Treaty initiated these arbitrations and interventions. This water belonged to Seistan, the whole of which belonged to Persia, and the part given to the Afghans by former Agreement should be restricted by the condition in question, in order that the Afghans should not be able to alienate it to another Government. In the original Goldsmid Agreement no reference was made to the point in question.

Colonel MacMahon has not only disregarded the Goldsmid Agreement, and has not acted according to it, but he has introduced some innovations which are favourable to Afghanistan and injurious to the Persian Government. For example, his decision excludes (from Persia) the Helmund waters which were formerly in the possession of Persia, gives one-third to the Persians and two-thirds to the Afghans. The Helmund water should naturally irrigate all the arable lands of Seistan, but the present division of the water, giving one-third to Persia, is unnatural and unjust. Besides this fact, the object of accepting the arbitration was for the removal of the present differences which have arisen on account of the actual cultivation, and not for the consideration of emergencies which may arise in the future. From Bander Kamal Khan downward, all the cultivated land on either side of the river, i.e., all Seistan, is irrigated by the river in question. If we were actually to divide the cultivation, two-thirds of the whole would be in Persian territory, and the whole of the Afghan cultivation in Seistan would be even less than one-third. Therefore, the water should at least be divided in the same proportion.

It is clear that the English Commissioner, in dividing the water quite in an opposite way, and basing his Arbitral Award on anticipations of the future, and of bringing the barren lands in Seistan under cultivation, disregarded the necessity of the time and the object of his invitation. According to the present Award, as is already mentioned, Persia suffers to the advantage of Afghanistan at the seasons both of the rise and fall of the river. According to the permission it has for the repair of the old and the construction of new canals, Afghanistan will improve the unused lands on the left bank of the Helmund River, and undoubtedly will attract thither the inhabitants of Seistan, which has been left without water.

It is inserted in clause 1 that both sides have the right, within their own territories, to maintain existing canals, to open out old or disused canals, and to make new canals from the Helmund. This decision would be considered a very just one if from Bander Kamal Khan to Naizar all the lands to the west belonged to Persia and those to the east to Afghanistan. The case being otherwise, it is desirable that Persia should at least be able to repair its old and unused canals, should it consider it necessary to do so (when the Afghans begin the work), from above Kuhak Dam to Bandar Kamal, at any point from which it can get water from the Helmund for Seistan. According to clause 1, the Persian Government can only improve the lands below the Kuhak Dam and all the lands of Amrud, Kanda, Houzdan, &c., which cover a length of 10 farsakhs, and a width of more than one-half of that distance the whole way, and which are

separate and have nothing to do with the lands below the dam, must, when necessary, be irrigated by the waters above the dam and below Dek, Dileh, and Rudbar.

Although ostensibly the two parties are allowed to improve the unused and barren lands, in reality the Persian Government have been deprived of this right.

One of the innovations in the present Arbitral Award is the introduction of a permanent engineer for the future execution of the Award, although no reference to that point was made in the Goldsmid Agreement. If the arbitration were final and in accordance with the previous Award, there would be no necessity for a permanent engineer.

In view of the above considerations, as well as a few other objections to the stipulations of Colonel MacMahon's Award, the Persian Government cannot but consider the Award in question prejudicial to its interests, and wish to make a distinct protest.

Inclosure 3 in No. 51.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Mushir-ed-Dowleh.*

*March 8, 1906.*

I AT once communicated to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the substance of your Excellency's note of the 22nd February last, in which you state the reasons on account of which the Persian Government is unable to accept the Arbitral Award given by Colonel MacMahon on the dispute between Persia and Afghanistan as regards the division of the water of the Helmund River.

In accordance with instructions received from Sir E. Grey, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that if the Persian Government really desire to persist in their refusal to accept the Award, they should submit a reasoned appeal in due form for the decision of His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in accordance with the agreement come to in November 1902.

[12949]

No. 52.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 17.)*

(No. 90.)

Sir,

*Tehran, March 30, 1906.*

ON the 13th instant I received information from a sure source that it had been decided to reappoint the Shoa-es-Saltaneh Governor-General of Fars, and that the Prince had actually left Tehran in the direction of Kum.

I at once sent Abbas Kuli Khan with the private letter, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, to the Atabeg-i-Azam, who was unwell and confined to his house.

My action apparently produced a satisfactory result, as the Minister of the Court and the Movasegh-es-Saltaneh were dispatched in haste after the Prince, whom they caught at Kum and brought back. Meanwhile, the Kawam-ul-Mulk, the principal landowner in Fars, who is in "bast" at the Grand Vizier's house, sent a message to his family at Shiraz to the effect that the Prince had started for Fars. Great excitement was produced, and the Shiraz merchants began to close their shops, and the people to rush to the great mosque. I presume that the news of the Prince's return to Tehran was subsequently telegraphed, as the town immediately calmed down, and is now normal.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure in No. 52.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to the Atabeg-i-Azam.*

(Private.)

*March 13, 1906.*

I HAVE been informed on good authority that it is proposed to reappoint His Imperial Highness the Shoa-es-Saltaneh as Governor-General of Fars.

In the event of the Prince again proceeding to that province as Governor-General, I have been instructed by His Majesty's Government to make a communication to the Persian Government on the subject.

This letter will be handed to you by Abbas Kuli Khan, and I have the honour to request your Excellency to be so good as to inform him whether or not there is any truth in the report as to the Prince's reappointment.

[12950]

No. 53.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 17.)*

(No. 91.)

Sir,

*Tehran, March 30, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, contrary to general expectation, the month of Moharrem passed off here and all over Persia in absolute quiet.

The Ulema of Tehran are waiting for the Government to carry out the promised reforms in the administration of justice, and it appears that a Commission has been appointed to report on the best means of improving the present unsatisfactory state of things. This Commission includes the following well-known Persian officials:—

Nasr-ul-Mulk, Finance Minister.

Mohtashem-es-Saltaneh, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

Mukber-es-Saltaneh, head of the Military College.

Sani-ed-Dowleh, formerly Master of the Mint.

Mushir-ul-Mulk, Minister at St. Petersburg.

Hocein Khan, Chef de Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The above are all comparatively enlightened men and have all been more or less educated in Europe.

It is unfortunately only too probable that if they succeed in producing a code of laws similar to that in force in the Ottoman Empire, as I understand is their intention, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to carry out its provisions. Corruption has affected every class of the inhabitants, and the idea that a judge cannot be bribed is one which the ordinary Persian mind cannot grasp.

Now that the month of Moharrem has passed it is hardly likely that disturbances will occur before the autumn, that is the month of Ramazan.

I have sounded the principal Mollahs, and they say that before taking further steps they intend to wait and see whether the Shah will fulfil his promises. During Moharrem sermons directed against the Shah and the Government have been common, and as a prominent Mollah said yesterday to Mr. Churchill, "Things we formerly scarcely whispered we now say quite openly."

I have, &c.

(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

[12800]

No. 54.

*Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 17.)*

(No. 244. Confidential.)

Sir,

*Constantinople, April 10, 1906.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 197 of the 26th ultimo, on the subject of the dispute between Turkey and Persia as to the frontier near Vazne, I have the honour to transmit herewith decyphers of four telegrams, which I have received within the last three days, reporting on recent military action on the part of Turkey, and giving interesting indications of the views held on the dispute by the local authorities at Mosul.

The telegram from His Majesty's Consul-General at Bagdad shows that five battalions of the IVth Army Corps left Mosul for Vazne on the 24th and 25th ultimo, and that another battalion was detained from following them by want of transport; while Mr. Grant Duff reports in his telegram of the 8th (which he has no doubt repeated to you) that a body of irregular cavalry is being enlisted in the Turkish service from among the Sunni Kurds on the Persian side of the frontier. Though somewhat vague, Mr. Shipley's telegrams from Mosul, whither I authorized him to go for a few days from Diarbekir, leave no doubt that more troops are being pushed forward; but it is also evident that local opinion is divided as to the true interests of Turkey in the dispute. On the one hand, there is a forward party, headed by Abdullah Pasha,



described as belonging to the Palace, and a certain Izzet Pasha of Kerkuk, recently promoted to be Major-General in command at Suleimanie; while, on the other hand, the advocates of moderation appear to be the Mushir Zeki Pasha and the Vali Moustapha Bey, the latter being a brother of the Sultan's Second Secretary, Izzet Pasha, who is credited—I believe justly—with being the prime instigator of an aggressive policy at Yildiz.

Taking into consideration the utter inability of Persia to offer any serious resistance, these telegrams would by themselves appear to justify the gravest apprehensions that a forward line of action has been decided on at Constantinople, but against such a policy are ranged the counsels of moderation of the Ministers, while the great weight and authority of the Sheikh-ul-Islam are thrown into the same scale. What, moreover, makes for peace in spite of these prognostications of conflict is the increasing irresolution of the Sultan, who is said to be seldom of the same frame of mind for two days together; and also His Majesty's mistrust of Russia, which, weakened as she is by internal disorders and a disastrous war, is not a factor which he can ignore, particularly when he is aware that her views are shared and supported by Great Britain. The Persian frontier question thus occupies great attention, but though one Council of Ministers is called after another to discuss it, no definite decision is reached.

Should the Sultan, however, be induced to follow the advice of the militant party so far as to commit further acts of aggression, or to refuse definitely to withdraw his troops from Passova, which is unquestionably on the Persian side of the zone within which the Anglo-Russian Commission decided that the frontier lies, it may be necessary for His Majesty's Government, in concert with that of the Czar, to consider the steps to be taken to persuade the Sultan to adopt a more conciliatory policy.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 54.

Consul-General Newmarch to Sir N. O'Connor.

(Telegraphic.) P. Bagdad, April 6, 1906.  
I HAVE received a Report from His Majesty's Consular Agent at Mosul that four battalions of the 31st Regiment arrived there on the 25th February, and the 2nd Battalion of the 33rd Regiment arrived on the 1st March from Anatolia. Both these regiments form part of the 14th "Corps d'Armée."

On the receipt of telegraphic instructions from Constantinople, Rediff Battalion of Kerkuk left on the 24th March, and four battalions of the 31st Regiment on the 25th March, for Vazne.

Baggage and ammunition mules are so scarce at Mosul that remainder of troops have had to stay there.

Inclosure 2 in No. 54.

Vice-Consul Shipley to Sir N. O'Connor.

(Telegraphic.) P. Mosul, April 7, 1906.

AM reporting by despatch to following effect:—

Seven more battalions from Bagdad are expected here in addition to the twenty-two already in the province. Vali says that the War Office party are bent on policy of aggression, and he deplores the fact that it is improbable that he can counteract their influence.

Abdullah Pasha of the Palace is one of the two leading spirits of the party of aggression, the other being Izzet Pasha of Kerkuk. The latter has recently been promoted Lava of Cavalry at Suleimanie. Abdullah is persistently advocating the dispatch at once to the frontier of all the troops, in spite of fact that rivers are in flood at present moment.

Izzet dictates reports of Vajid Commissioner to the Palace which are greatly misleading.

Turks are holding both Passova and Vazne.

Inclosure 3 in No. 54.

Vice-Consul Shipley to Sir N. O'Connor.

(Telegraphic.) P. Mosul, April 8, 1906.  
AUTHORITIES at Constantinople insist on sending Hamidieh to the frontier, in spite of fact that both Vali and also Zekki Pasha are both opposed to such course.

If they must come, it would be well that they should keep to the left of the river bank (not going near the town of Zezire), where only a few small Mussulman villages are situated.

Inclosure 4 in No. 54.

Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir N. O'Connor.

(Telegraphic.) P. Tehran, April 8, 1906.  
HIS Majesty's Consul-General telegraphs from Tabreez on the 7th April as follows:—

"My telegram No. 21.

"Following is confidential.

"I am informed confidentially by Turkish Consul-General that he has received report from his Vice-Consul at Urmia to effect that 700 Kurds have been enrolled as irregular cavalry by a Turkish lieutenant and troops now in Dasht."

[13111]

No. 55.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 17.)

Sir, India Office, April 14, 1906.  
I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to acknowledge Sir E. Gorst's letter of the 7th instant, transmitting a copy of Mr. Grant Duff's telegram No. 88 of the 4th instant, relative to the rumoured establishment of quarantine posts on the Perso-Afghan boundary.

In reply, I am to say that Mr. Morley concurs in Sir E. Grey's view that any action likely to raise the question of the Perso-Afghan frontier at the present moment would be impolitic, and that consequently no representation should be made to the Persian Government in the sense suggested by the Government of India in their telegram of the 2nd instant until more definite evidence is obtained of the intention of Russia to form a cordon.

A telegram in this sense has been addressed to the Government of India.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

Inclosure in No. 55.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. India Office, April 14, 1906.  
PERSO-AFGHAN frontier. With reference to your telegram of the 2nd instant. Until more definite evidence is obtained of intention of Russians to form cordon, His Majesty's Government do not propose to authorize any representation to Persian Government in the sense proposed, as present time is inopportune for action likely to raise question of Perso-Afghan frontier.

[13104]

No. 56.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 17.)*

Sir,

*India Office, April 14, 1906.*

WITH reference to Mr. Campbell's letter of the 21st February, relative to the case of a Persian subject who has committed an offence on board a British ship in the harbour at Bahrein, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to inclose, for Sir E. Grey's consideration, a copy of telegrams to and from the Government of India on the subject.

Provided the Sheikh of Bahrein consents to the trial of the accused by the Political Agent, Mr. Morley is inclined to think that the precedent of the eleven Muscat subjects, referred to in the Government of India's telegram, might be followed.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 56.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*February 22, 1906.*

TELEGRAM has been received from Chargé d'Affaires, Tehran, relative to case of a Persian subject, resident in Bahrein, who has committed offence on board British ship in the harbour there. Political Agent, Bahrein, considers that man deserves two years' imprisonment, but his powers enable him to try British subjects only. Grant Duff requests instructions how to deal with the case, facts of which, he says, have been communicated to you by Resident in the Persian Gulf. Please let me have your views. It is necessary to take into consideration objection to raising jurisdiction question with Persian Government.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 56.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*April 6, 1906.*

BAHREIN.

With reference to your telegram of 22nd February, practice appears to be that such cases should be disposed of in the presence of Sheikh's representative by Political Officer. There appears to be no reason, especially as offence was committed in connection with British vessel, why Political Officer should not follow ordinary practice, since, in accordance with Sir E. Grey's telegram of 6th February to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran, Persian Government have now been formally notified that their claim to Bahrein is inadmissible, and that island is under British protection. No objection to action proposed in this case would probably be raised by Sheikh, who has recently asked Political Officer to try case of eleven Muscatis charged with offence on British vessel. It does not appear that Political Officer's action could be questioned locally, as he would be exercising jurisdiction either derived from his position as representative of protecting power or delegated by Sheikh.

[13105]

No. 57.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 17.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 15th April, with regard to disturbances in Seistan.

*India Office, April 17, 1906.*

Inclosure in No. 57.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.**April 15, 1906.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

SEISTAN disturbances.

As there is apparently no immediate risk of further disturbance, we do not propose to direct double company, which reaches Seistan to-morrow with reserve of arms, to cross frontier. If, however, he considers it absolutely necessary for protection of Consulate and British subjects, Consul is still at liberty to call them in, though he should do it as far as possible by men already with him in Seistan. He may also arrange to import so much reserve of arms and ammunition as is required for Consulate. Local authorities are at present clearly unable to prevent disorder or arrest offenders, and, as regards future, Persian troops, mentioned in Grant Duff's telegram of the 9th instant, even if they can leave Meshed at all, cannot reach Seistan for a week. Plague also is apparently spreading in the absence of preventive measures, and adverse criticism on the part of other Governments threatened may be provoked.

Our troops will, of course, be readily available if His Majesty's Government think that double company could usefully be employed in the event of the present condition of anarchy continuing, as moral support of local authorities to secure introduction of such plague measures as are possible, to arrest ringleaders, and to restore order. On this point we concur in opinion expressed in telegram dated the 9th instant from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran.

We again venture to ask that permission to construct telegraph to Seistan on behalf of Persian Government should be obtained without further delay, as first step towards security of Consulate, and as earnest of friendly intentions of Persian Government. Until, however, causes of disturbances are more clearly ascertained, we will defer opinion as to reparation to be required.

[13349]

No. 58.

*Mr. Whitelaw Reid to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 19.)*

Sir,

*American Embassy, London, April 18, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that our Minister to Persia, Mr. Pearson, has made known to the Department of State his obligation to Mr. Evelyn Grant Duff, His Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran, and to Mr. A. C. Wratislaw, His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez, for the "ungrudging, constant, and efficient services rendered by them to American citizens in north-west Persia." Mr. Pearson warmly appreciates the good offices of these gentlemen; and it is a gratifying duty for me to advise you that these cordial feelings are shared by the Secretary of State.

I am instructed, therefore, to request that you will be so good as to convey to Mr. Grant Duff and to Mr. Wratislaw the earnest thanks of my Government for their services to Americans in general in north-west Persia, and for the valuable assistance which they so kindly rendered to our Minister, particularly in connection with the Labaree case.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) WHITELAW REID.

[13345]

No. 59.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 19.)*

Sir,

*India Office, April 19, 1906.*

IN reply to Sir E. Gorst's letter of the 17th instant, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to say that he concurs in the terms of the draft telegram which it is proposed to send to Mr. Grant Duff in reply to his telegram No. 105 on the subject of the situation in Seistan.

Mr. Morley would, however, suggest, for Sir E. Grey's consideration, that Mr. Grant Duff should also be informed that the Government of India have been

authorized to send the whole of the Robat double company to Nasratabad, in the event of His Majesty's Consul considering their presence to be absolutely necessary for the protection of the Consulate and of British subjects.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[13358] No. 60.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 19.)*

(No. 108.)  
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tehran, April 19, 1906.*

HIS Majesty's Consul in Seistan telegraphs as follows:—

"A plot of land, previously selected with the concurrence of the Itisham, for one of our traders, was yesterday formally marked out, and handed over by that official. Two Russian signallers, with half-a-dozen Seistanis, came immediately afterwards, and, on the plea that they had already purchased the site, openly demolished the pillars. Their claim to previous purchase is denied by the Itisham, but, even if it were true, which I do not believe, I venture to submit that the action of the Russians was unjustifiable. After recent events I fear that the loss to our prestige will be incalculable unless action is taken."

I have replied as follows:—

"Incident has been brought to the notice of the Russian Chargé d'Affaires and the Mushir-ed-Dowleh."

[13353] No. 61.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 19.)*

(No. 110.)  
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tehran, April 19, 1906.*

KUH-I-MALIK-SIAH extension.

Persian Government again decline to grant the extension for the reasons previously given.

[13348] No. 62.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 19.)*

(No. 111.)  
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tehran, April 19, 1906.*

RUSSIAN road scandals.

Russian Minister of Communications has turned back from Julfa. Remaining members of the Commission are expected to arrive shortly at Tabreez.

[13364] No. 63.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 19.)*

(No. 112.)  
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tehran, April 19, 1906.*

PERSO-TURKISH frontier dispute.

My telegram No. 73 of the 23rd ultimo.

I have been asked by Persian Government what steps have been taken by His Majesty's Government.

[13365]

No. 64.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 19.)*

(No. 113.)  
(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, April 19, 1906.*

I WAS to-day informed by the Mushir-ed-Dowleh that the Persian Government cannot give the land which His Majesty's Government claim, as Russia would make similar demands in the north. They are prepared to grant a reasonable area round about the buildings of the Telegraph Department, and further ground can be rented if required.

I replied that I was not empowered by my instructions to accept any area less than that held from 1868 to 1880.

The area demanded exceeds 3 square miles, and I venture to suggest that this is rather large. It is highly unlikely, in my opinion, that the Persian Government will sanction anything approaching it.

[13345]

No. 65.

*Sir Edward Grey to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 62.)  
(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, April 19, 1906.*

SEISTAN riots.

Have Persian troops from Meshed, referred to in your telegram No. 96 of the 7th April, yet reached Seistan? Even if Persian Government desired to punish ringleaders, are you satisfied that they are locally strong enough to do so? You appear, in your telegram No. 96, to deprecate dispatch of small British force to Seistan, and complications would be likely to arise from the dispatch of a large one. If, however, Consul considers it absolutely necessary for protection of British subjects and Consulate, Government of India have been authorized to send to Nasratabad the whole of the Robat double company.

You should continue to urge on the Persian Government the adoption of the necessary punitive measures, pointing out that their failure in this respect would constitute a proof of their inability to adequately protect His Majesty's Consul in Seistan, and would compel His Majesty's Government to take steps accordingly.

Above is with reference to your telegram No. 105 of the 15th instant.

[13432]

No. 66.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 20.)*

Sir,

*India Office, April 19, 1906.*

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to request that you will draw Sir E. Grey's attention to the Viceroy's telegram of the 15th instant on the subject of the state of Seistan.

Subject to Sir E. Grey's opinion, Mr. Morley does not see any reason to depart from the instructions conveyed by him to the Government of India in his telegram of the 6th instant.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

No. 67.

[Nil.]

[13630]

No. 68.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 21.)*

(No. 115.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, April 21, 1906.*

FOLLOWING from Government of India:—

"Letter of the 18th March from His Majesty's Resident at Bushire. Luristan trade route.

"The present does not seem to us a very suitable time for taking up the matter seriously, but Vice-Consul at Ahwaz might, perhaps, be able to visit the Vali of Pusht-i-Kuk and find out something as to his attitude and position, and as to the nature of the country. We should be glad of your opinion on this suggestion.

"(Repeated Bushire.)"

I have sent the following reply:—

"Any negotiations regarding the Luristan trade route would lie between His Majesty's Government and the local Chiefs. No assistance would be given by the Persian Government, nor, in case of outrage, would redress be granted by them. The ultimate question, therefore, seems to be whether, with a view to increasing our political influence and trade, His Majesty's Government are prepared to spend a sum of money experimentally.

"If so, instructions might be sent to Vice-Consul at Ahwaz to enter into preliminary negotiations with the Vali of Pusht-i-Kuk. Events here scarcely affect the question, as the power of the Central Government is almost non-existent in those regions. I am sending a copy of Major Cox's despatch to London by the next messenger."

[13708]

No. 69.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 21.)*

(No. 116.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, April 21, 1906.*

SEISTAN disturbances.

Your telegram No. 62 of the 19th April.

Colonel of Cossack Brigade has received no definite orders for the dispatch of Cossacks to Seistan, and they have not yet left Tehran. There is already one Persian regiment, numbering about 400 men, at Nasratabad.

If the Persian Government chose to punish the offenders I think they could do so. I am informed by the Mushir-ed-Dowleh that the local authorities are not at present in a position to make arrests, and that the Persian Government are sending a special official to Seistan with orders to investigate. This will probably lead to no satisfactory result, and will take a long time.

A note in accordance with the instructions contained in your telegram has been sent to the Persian Government.

[13631]

No. 70.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 22.)*

(No. 117.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, April 22, 1906.*

ANGLO-RUSSIAN land dispute in Seistan.

My telegram No. 108 of the 19th instant.

His Majesty's Consul in Seistan telegraphs as follows:—

"In my telegram No. 106 I omitted to mention that the Itisham's servant who erected the pillars was struck by the Russians. A guard of Beluchis has now been placed by the Russians on the site under dispute. The land is an open site, and the only claim to it appears to be that it goes with an adjoining house recently leased by

the Russians. The Russian Consul was asked by the Itisham to produce documents but declined to have any dealings with that official, and returned one of his letters without opening it. Details are being telegraphed by the Itisham."

[13632]

No. 71.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 22.)*

(No. 118.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, April 22, 1906.*

I WAS asked yesterday by the Mushir-ed-Dowleh to furnish the names of the persons who attacked His Majesty's Consulate in Seistan. I replied that it was the duty of the Persian Government to identify and arrest the offenders, but that I would send instructions to His Majesty's Consul to furnish the names, if it were within his power to do so.

[13633]

No. 72.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 22.)*

(No. 119.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, April 22, 1906.*

I WAS sent for to-day by the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, who said that the Turkish frontier dispute was becoming very serious, and that the Shah had ordered him to speak to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires and myself on the subject. Intrigues were going on in Soujboulak between the Mollahs and the Turkish authorities, and the non-arrival of the Persian Commissioners and rumours spread by the Turks to the effect that they intended to annex Kurdistan had greatly excited the people of the neighbourhood. The proposal that the Turkish forces now in Persian territory should be withdrawn as a preliminary to a frontier Commission had been absolutely declined by the Porte. The Persian Government, acting on the advice given to the Persian Ambassador at Constantinople by the Russian and British Ambassadors, had hitherto refrained from taking military measures, but in order to protect their territory they would now reluctantly be forced to do so. My advice was asked as to what form these military measures should take, and when I declined to offer any advice on this subject, the Mushir-ed-Dowleh begged that I would refer this question to you.

He asked also how far Great Britain and Russia considered it their duty to intervene in disputes on the Perso-Turkish frontier, and inquired whether there was any further hope of diplomatic intervention by those Powers.

[13699]

No. 73.

*Mr. Spring-Rice to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 23.)*

(No. 271.)

Sir,

*St. Petersburg, April 16, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a private letter which I have addressed to Count Lamsdorff on the subject of the incident of the run organized against the Imperial Bank by the Banque des Prêts, which is under the direction of the Russian Financial Agent in Tehran. I also took measures to bring the incident to the knowledge of the President of the Council, under whom is the Minister of Finance.

I thought it advisable to take this step because I am convinced that neither Count Lamsdorff nor Count Witte would approve of the action taken in this matter by the Russian Bank, and because it appears to me to be desirable, in the interests of the good relations of two countries, that such incidents should be at once brought to the knowledge of the Russian Government in a frank and friendly manner, on the understanding that His Majesty's Government would not resent a similar act of frankness on the part of the Russian Government.

I venture to point out that my communication was of a private character, and was in no sense official, and that, should you disapprove of the step taken, a communication



to that effect can be made either here or in London. The communication which I made could not well have been delayed, as it coincided with the loan negotiations now being carried on in London.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) CECIL SPRING-RICE.

Inclosure in No. 73.

*Mr. Spring-Rice to Count Lamsdorff.*

M. le Comte, *Saint-Petersbourg, le 1<sup>er</sup> (14) Avril, 1906.*  
ME référant à ma note personnelle du 4 (17) Février, je me permets d'attirer l'attention de votre Excellence, à titre personnel et confidentiel, sur un fait qui s'est passé à Téhéran, qui me paraît regrettable au point de vue du maintien des bonnes relations entre nos ressortissants en Perse.

Votre Excellence se souviendra qu'un bruit lui est parvenu d'après lequel le Gouvernement Anglais serait en train de négocier un emprunt en faveur du Gouvernement Persan et au profit de la Banque de Schah-in-Schahi. Comme j'ai eu l'honneur de vous le dire, il n'y avait rien de vrai dans ce bruit. J'ai ajouté qu'en effet le Gouvernement Persan devait une assez forte somme à la Banque Schah-in-Schahi, mais que le Gouvernement Britannique, vu les considérations déjà connues à votre Excellence, avait refusé de prêter son concours tant à la Banque qu'au Gouvernement Persan.

Dans ces circonstances j'ai le regret de constater que le 1<sup>er</sup> (14) Mars (c'est-à-dire, après la date de ma communication à votre Excellence) une réunion a eu lieu dans les bureaux de la Banque d'Escompte à Téhéran entre l'Administration de la Banque et des négociants Persans, en vue d'organiser une irruption à la Banque Schah-in-Schahi, chez laquelle, en effet, du 5 jusqu'au 11 Mars s'est présentée une foule de personnes qui ont demandé le remboursement en argent comptant des billets émis par la Banque Schah-in-Schahi. Le chiffre des billets présentés pour paiement s'est porté à la somme de 2,571,000 krans, dont 900,000 krans étaient présentés par la Banque d'Escompte elle-même.

Je dois ajouter que, contrairement à l'usage habituel, la Banque d'Escompte n'avait pas prévenu d'avance la Banque Schah-in-Schahi de son intention de présenter ces billets pour paiement.

Il est à craindre qu'une impression pénible ne se produise dans le monde financier à Londres, en conséquence d'une telle démarche organisée sous les auspices d'une entreprise qui se trouve soumise à la direction de l'Agent du Ministère Impérial des Finances Russes.

Dans la ferme confiance que votre Excellence appréciera le motif de la franchise de la communication précédente, je la prie, &c.

(Signed) CECIL SPRING-RICE.

[13660]

No. 74.

*Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 23.)*

(No. 260. Confidential.)

Sir,

*Constantinople, April 17, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to report that up to the present moment no progress has been made in the negotiations between the Ottoman Government and the Persian Ambassador for the evacuation of Passova, and the appointment of a Mixed Commission.

On the other hand, reports arrive from the Consuls at Mosul and Sivas stating, as per inclosed despatches, that three battalions, with twelve guns, have left the former place, and 4,050 of the new type of Mauser have been forwarded from the latter place for Visné and the Persian frontier. Other indications are not failing of the determination of the Sultan to provide for all contingencies in case of a conflict in those regions.

The Russian Ambassador, whom I saw this afternoon, told me that the Sultan had a few days ago sent his Second Secretary, Izzet Pasha, to see him and to say that, having carefully examined all the documents and maps connected with the Turco-Persian frontier, His Majesty was convinced that Zahijan, Visné, and Passova belonged by right to Turkey and were within her frontier limit.

M. Zinoviev replied that he could not accept this statement, which was disproved

by the maps prepared by the British and Russian Commissioners and officially presented to the Porte thirty-seven years ago, that Passova was absolutely outside the zone within which the frontier was to be found, and that his Government could not admit the present pretensions of the Ottoman Government. He wished, however, to know whether the Sultan desired him to inform his Government that he would not withdraw his troops from Passova or agree to a Commission of delimitation. Thereupon Izzet Pasha begged the Ambassador not to make this statement to his Government, and alluded to the Commission which the Sultan wished to appoint with a view to further inquiry.

M. Zinoviev further informed me that he had been requested by his Government to give his opinion as to the measures that would be taken to induce the Sultan to withdraw his troops from Passova, and that he was very much at a loss to know what to answer. In fact, he did not see what measures they could take, in view of the condition of affairs in Russia; and he rather agreed with me that, before we had recourse to language implying actual constraint, our Governments should carefully consider the question and endeavour to come to a common understanding.

The whole question is one fraught with considerable difficulty owing to the actual military weakness of Russia, and in a certain degree to the natural reluctance of both our Governments to embroil themselves in an affair which may possibly be brought to a peaceful solution by the two Moslem Powers immediately concerned.

It contains, however, the elements of complications possibly threatening the existence of Persia, which at present is wholly unable to offer any effectual armed resistance, and, from another point of view, it opens a prospective of a Pan-Islamic propagandism which neither ourselves nor Russia could regard without serious concern.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 74.

*Major Ramsay to Sir N. O'Connor.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Bagdad, April 16, 1906.*

CONSULAR Agent at Mosul reports that on the 25th March following forces left Mosul for Wazna: 5th Battalion 24th Artillery Regiment with six guns, 5th Battalion 23rd Infantry Regiment, also another battalion of infantry, of which number is not given.

March 27.—Six additional guns with infantry.

Inclosure 2 in No. 74.

*Mr. Jewett to Sir N. O'Connor.*

Excellency,

*Sivas, April 6, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I am credibly informed that 8,000 of the better type of Mauser rifles are requisitioned from this district (Sivas, Tokar, Zile, Amassia, and Gurun), to be sent to Visné, near Sulimanieh, and these guns are to be replaced by inferior Mausers sent from Constantinople. The guns began to leave Sivas on the 31st March. Forty-five waggon-loads have left up to date, each carrying three cases, or 4,050 rifles sent up to date.

It is said that these rifles are to arm a new division of troops for service on the Persian frontier.

The expenses of this movement of guns, estimated at 13,000 liras, is to be paid by this vilayet.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) MILO A. JEWETT.

[1617]

R

13665]

No. 75.

*Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 23.)*

(No. 265.)

Sir,

*Constantinople, April 18, 1906.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 260 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to forward herewith a note from the Persian Ambassador at this Court, which I received this morning, expressing the thanks of the Persian Government for the aid given them by this Embassy in the Turco-Persian frontier question.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 75.

*Prince Riza Khan to Sir N. O'Connor.*

*Ambassade de Perse, Stamboul,  
le 17 Avril, 1906.*

M. l'Ambassadeur et cher Collègue,

J'ai l'honneur d'envoyer à votre Excellence ci-inclus la copie en Persan ainsi que la traduction en langue Française d'une lettre qui vient de m'être adressée par le Ministère des Affaires Étrangères de Téhéran, qui m'a été remise par notre courrier spécial.

Veuillez, &c.  
(Signé) Prince M. RIZA KHAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 75.

*Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Prince Riza Khan.*

(Traduction du Persan.)

VOTRE Altesse a bien voulu noter l'appui et l'aide que son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre vous prête dans la question de Vazne et Lahidjan. Votre rapport a été soumis à Sa Majesté Impériale le Schah, notre auguste Souverain, qui a daigné s'exprimer ainsi :

"L'amitié sincère qui existe depuis si longtemps entre l'Angleterre et la Perse est un bon gage pour assurer le concours de l'honorable Ambassadeur de cette Grande Puissance, afin de soutenir les justes réclamations de notre Ambassade."

Veuillez exprimer les vifs remerciements du Gouvernement Persan à son Excellence.

Dieu veuille que ses démarches amicales soient couronnées de succès et qu'elles ne restent pas sans résultat.

[13834]

No 76.

*Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 23.)*

(No. 65.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Constantinople, April 23, 1906.*

TO-DAY I made fresh representations respecting the question of the Turco-Persian frontier to the Grand Vizier. His Highness denied the statements of the Shah's Government as reported by the Persian Ambassador and by Mr. Grant Duff in his telegram of the 22nd instant.

I subsequently met by appointment at the Persian Embassy my Russian colleague, M. Zinoview.

We adopted the view that the Persian Government should, if possible, avoid an armed conflict, and that the Persian Ambassador should himself call upon Izzet Pasha, Second Secretary to the Sultan, and make the following proposal:—

To advise the Shah to send Commissioners to Passova, on condition that the Sultan will promise that on their arrival the Ottoman troops shall be withdrawn within the zone in dispute and proceed with the delimitation of the frontier.

The general interest which the German Ambassador has shown in the question is not without significance. His Excellency has supported our representations at the Porte.

[13835]

No. 77.

*Mr. Spring-Rice to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 23.)*

(No. 72.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*St. Petersburg, April 23, 1906.*

AFFAIRS of the Persian Gulf.

Henjam. Count Lamsdorff has sent me an unofficial verbal message to the effect that, from information received, a British gun-boat was sent for the protection of Arabs against Persia, whose sovereignty was questioned, and that obstacles are being placed in the way of the construction of the Persian custom-house by the British authorities.

In reply, I propose to say—

(a.) That the dispatch of the gun-boat was for the protection of British subjects in the event of disorders, in consequence of measures threatened against Arabs by the Persian authorities;

(b.) That the question of the settlement of the telegraph station limits, which the Persians are disputing, in spite of the land having been occupied without protest for twelve years, forms the subject of present negotiations; moreover, that there is no intention of interfering with Persian sovereignty or with the administration of Persian Customs.

[13895]

No. 78.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 24.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of telegrams relative to the Seistan disturbances.

*India Office, April 23, 1906.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 78.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*April 18, 1906.*

MY telegram of the 2nd instant.

I have received from you no telegrams from Consul, Seistan, of more recent date than the 31st ultimo. Please keep me informed.

Inclosure 2 in No. 78.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*April 23, 1906.*

YOUR telegram of the 18th instant: Disturbances in Seistan.

Macpherson's later telegrams were not repeated, as situation was easier and disturbances were not renewed (see my telegram dated the 16th instant). You should, however, receive on the 27th instant copies of all telegrams from Seistan up to the 7th instant, which have been posted by mail of the 12th instant. Grant Duff has presumably repeated telegrams of more recent date which have been addressed to him by Macpherson. At Macpherson's request four more hospital assistants are being sent by us to Seistan.

[13964]

No. 79.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 24.)*

(No. 120.)

(Telegraphic). P.

*Tehran, April 24, 1906.*

FOLLOWING addressed to Seistan :—

"Plague in Seistan.

"Your telegram No. 108.

"I am taking all possible steps to have prominent Mullahs nominated to the Tehran Sanitary Council and to that of Seistan.

"The Persian Government have meanwhile asked Sheikh Reza to preach to the people of Seistan in favour of quarantine.

"The Cossacks for Seistan leave here on the 26th April, and the Momtahan-es-Saltaneh, who has been appointed on special service in the place of the Itesham-ul-Vazarch, will leave for Nasratabad shortly."

[14186]

No. 80.

*Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Spring-Rice.*

(No. 184.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, April 24, 1906.*

I TOLD Count Benckendorff to-day that the Persian Government had been talking at Tehran of taking military measures on the disputed Turkish frontier, and had been pressing for advice.

I said it was obviously futile for them to attempt to do anything themselves, and also not very easy to say what we could do in addition to the representations which we had already made at Constantinople. I thought, however, our next representation might take the form of asking the Turkish Government to submit the frontier dispute to the arbitration of Russia and Great Britain, in accordance with the Agreement which had been come to between us many years ago, and communicated with him to the Porte. I was afraid the Turkish Government would not agree to this, and, in that case, I should be very glad to know what measures the Russian Government would suggest. We would be quite willing to consider anything which they had to propose.

I took the opportunity of explaining to Count Benckendorff that the presence of a British ship of war at the Island of Henjam had no political significance. It had been sent there because there was a danger of conflict between the Persian Government and the Arabs. We did not dispute Persian sovereignty, but we wished to protect our own telegraph station and our British employés. We had been in occupation, for the purposes of our telegraph station, of certain land there for twelve years, and the object of the ship of war would not be to disturb, but to preserve, the *status quo* so far as British property and British subjects were concerned. It had no political significance.

I also mentioned to Count Benckendorff, unofficially, that I had heard that the Russian Agents in Seistan had forcibly removed boundary pillars from a piece of land which had been sold, with the consent of the Persian authorities, to a British subject. I did not mention this officially, because I was waiting for further information. But, in view of the facts that Seistan was very disturbed, and that the Quarantine Regulations gave rise to much trouble, I hoped the Russian Government would send conciliatory instructions to their Agents there, so that no advantage should be taken of the situation to prejudice British interests. It was desirable, when disturbances of this sort arose, that our respective Agents should act in concert.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

[14080]

No. 81.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 25.)*

(No. 123.)

(Telegraphic). P.

*Tehran, April 25, 1906.*

PERSO-TURKISH frontier dispute.

"According to a report which I have received from His Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez, the district between Souj Boulak and Umi is being ravaged by the Kurds.

Danger to Christians will be even greater than it is at present if hostilities break out.

I would suggest that the Turkish and Persian Governments be warned that His Majesty's Government will hold them responsible for the lives of British subjects.

[13432]

No. 82.

*Foreign Office to India Office.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, April 25, 1906.*

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, relative to the state of affairs in Seistan.

Sir E. Grey concurs in the opinion of the Secretary of State for India that there is no reason to depart from the instructions conveyed to the Government of India on the 6th instant. But I am to point out that when the Persian Government were originally informed of the dispatch of a British force to Robat, they were told that the troops were sent as a precautionary measure in view of plague, and "in order to render assistance to the Persian Government if required." Sir E. Grey considers that this offer must be borne in mind, although it appears so unlikely that the Persian Government will apply for the assistance of British troops, that it is scarcely necessary to consider the contingency at present.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) E. GORST.

[14097]

No. 83.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 26.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 20th April, relative to the affairs of Seistan.

*India Office, April 25, 1906.*

Inclosure in No. 83.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic). P.

*India Office, April 26, 1906.*

GRANT DUFF'S telegram of the 15th instant. Following reply sent 19th instant :—

"Dispatch of large British force to Seistan would be likely to cause complications, and your telegram appears to deprecate sending small force there. I should be glad to know whether Persian troops referred to in that telegram have reached Seistan and whether you are satisfied that, if they wished to punish ringleaders, Persian Government are strong enough locally to do so. Authority for dispatch of whole of Robat double company to Nasratabad, if Consul considers it absolutely necessary for protection of Consulate and British subjects, has been given to Government of India. Persian Government should be informed by you that their failure to adopt necessary punitive measures, which you should continue to urge upon them, would prove their inability to afford His Majesty's Consul in Seistan proper protection, and that His Majesty's Government would be compelled to take steps accordingly."

[1617]

S

[14080]

No. 84.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir N. O'Connor.*

(No. 52.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, April 26, 1906.*

YOU may act as suggested in Mr. Grant Duff's telegram No. 123, in connection with the danger to Christians on the Turco-Persian frontier.

The Persian Government will receive a similar warning.

14080]

No. 85.

*Sir Edward Grey to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 67.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, April 26, 1906.*

YOU may act as suggested in your telegram No. 123 in connection with the danger to Christians on the Turco-Persian frontier.

The Porte will receive a similar warning.

[12940]

No. 86.

*Memorandum communicated to Persian Minister, April 26, 1906.*

ON the 5th ultimo a Memorandum was received from the Persian Minister respecting the beating inflicted by the Vizier of Fars on a witness sent to him by His Majesty's Consul at Shiraz.

Sir E. Grey is surprised to learn from a despatch received from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran that no apology for this incident has yet been offered, and he would be glad to know whether the further explanations promised in the telegram from the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, which was communicated on the 5th ultimo, have reached the Persian Legation.

*Foreign Office, April 26, 1906.*

[12949]

No. 87.

*Sir Edward Grey to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 64.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, April 26, 1906.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 90 of the 30th ultimo regarding the rumoured reappointment of the Prince Shoa-es-Sultaneh as Governor-General of Fars.

Your action in the matter has my approval.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

[13349]

No. 88.

*Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Whitelaw Reid.*

Your Excellency,

*Foreign Office, April 26, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 18th instant, requesting that the thanks of the Government of the United States may be conveyed to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran and to His Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez for their services to Americans in general in North-West Persia and for the assistance which they have rendered to the United States' Minister at Tehran, particularly in connection with the Labaree case.

I have learnt with much satisfaction that Mr. Grant Duff and Mr. Wratishaw were able to be of service to Mr. Pearson and to American citizens, and I shall not fail to convey the thanks of the United States' Government to these gentlemen, as requested by your Excellency.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

[13699]

No. 89.

*Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Spring-Rice.*

(No. 185.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, April 27, 1906.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 271 of the 16th instant respecting the run organized by the Russian Banque des Prêts at Tehran on the Imperial Bank of Persia.

I approve your action in the matter and the terms of your communication to Count Lamsdorff.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

[13104]

No. 90.

*Foreign Office to India Office.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, April 27, 1906.*

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, relative to the case of a Persian subject who has committed an offence on board a British ship in the harbour at Bahrein.

Sir E. Grey, after careful consideration of the matter, is of opinion that, before coming to a decision, it would be desirable to obtain further information on certain points. The view of the Government of India that no objections would be raised locally to the man being tried by the British Political Officer at Bahrein may be well founded, but it does not exclude the possibility of objections on the part of the Persian Government, who might decline to recognize the precedent set in the case of the subjects of the Sultan of Muscat. It is true that British protection over Bahrein has lately been notified to Persia, but it seems undesirable to raise at the present moment a question of jurisdiction which might involve discussion and controversy.

I am therefore to suggest, for Mr. Secretary Morley's consideration, that the Government of India should be requested to furnish further particulars of the case, especially as regards the present whereabouts of the culprit, with a view to seeing whether the case might not be dealt with in some more convenient manner.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) E. GORST.

[14383]

No. 91.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 28.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 27th instant, relative to the plague in Seistan.

*India Office, April 28, 1906.*

Inclosure in No. 91.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, April 27, 1906.*

FOLLOWING telegram, dated the 19th instant, received from Macpherson, regarding plague in Seistan:—

"Nothing is being done to check plague, which is spreading rapidly over district; present situation very unsatisfactory as regards the disease. Unanimity is impossible, owing to divergence of political views of members, in Seistan Sanitary Council, which, as at present constituted, is powerless, impracticable, and unpopular. Mullahs, who are unrepresented on Council, oppose anti-plague measures, and measures adopted up to date have been merely compromise.



"I would recommend identification of leading Mullahs with sanitary measures by their appointment as members of Sanitary Council, the latter being reconstituted on popular basis, unless we can obtain complete direction of operations ourselves. Either the Persian doctor, or, failing him, the Deputy Governor, to be President. European element to remain advisory, and to be reduced to the minimum. Carrying out of medical and disinfecting arrangements to be entirely in the hands of Muhammadan doctors and Mullahs, by whom European doctors will be advised.

"Enforcement of measures to prevent spread of plague outside Seistan, now, perhaps, most important duty of any, to be the only function of the Customs Department. I venture to think that our position is quite special, in view of unique experience of our doctors in dealing with plague, and that this should be recognised by Persian Government."

Reconstitution of Sanitary Council and other measures suggested by Macpherson are, we are disposed to think, desirable.  
(Teheran informed.)

[14433]

No. 92.

*Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 28.)*

(No. 70. Confidential.)  
(Telegraphic.) P.

*Constantinople, April 28, 1906.*

FRONTIER dispute between Turkey and Persia.

Yesterday my Russian colleague called upon me and said that Count Lamsdorff had instructed him to confer with me with regard to a suggestion that you made to Count Benckendorff, that the Porte should be invited to submit to the decision of the two mediating Powers the question at issue.

I replied that I thought the Porte would almost certainly refuse, and that, unless we were prepared to go further, we ought to examine the matter very carefully before venturing on a course which might entail a rebuff and a serious loss of credit. I went on to say, however, that a warning might be conveyed to the Porte to the effect that persistence in a policy which menaced the preservation of order, not only in Persia but also in the regions of the Persian Gulf, could not be viewed by us with indifference.

M. Zinoview does not, it is evident, consider his Government to be at the present moment in a position to adopt any kind of military measures, and I should be reluctant to see His Majesty's Embassy pressed into an unduly prominent position in regard to this matter.

A large force of all arms is now concentrated at Vezue, and the news which I continue to receive from Mosul reports the further dispatch of several battalions to that place. To precipitate a conflict would be folly on the part of the Persians, but grave disorders, possibly leading to a general conflagration, which may eventually force us to take action, are very likely to ensue among the Kurdish tribes acting under Turkish influence.

I do not, however, quite see what more we can do for the moment beyond putting all possible diplomatic pressure on the Porte. Unless appealed to by both parties I take it that our Treaty obligations do not compel us to intervene.

[14430]

No. 93.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 28.)*

(No. 124.)  
(Telegraphic.) P.

*Teheran, April 28, 1906.*

PLAGUE in Seistan.

I concur in the views as to the reconstruction of the Sanitary Council expressed in the telegram No. 1299 from the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India. See also my telegram No. 120 of the 24th instant.

The consent of the Persian Government may, however, be difficult to obtain.

[14565]

No. 94.

*Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 30.)*

(No. 278. Confidential.)

Sir,

*Constantinople, April 24, 1906.*

IN my telegram No. 65 of yesterday I had the honour to report that the German Ambassador was giving proof of considerable interest in the Turco-Persian frontier question and was supporting the representations made by my Russian colleague and myself, and I added that Baron von Marschall's action appeared to me very significant. I now take leave to supplement my telegram with the following observations.

The appointment of a tried and able official like M. Stemrich to the post of German Minister at Tehran, is, as I pointed out in my despatch No. 269, Confidential, of the 21st instant, sufficiently indicative in itself of a more active policy in Persia, and unless I am very much mistaken, the new German Envoy will play a much more important rôle in Persia than did his predecessor, Count Rex. I am willing to believe that the anxious desire shown by Baron von Marschall to interfere in the dispute provoked by the Turkish occupation of Passova is in some measure due to apprehension lest a serious conflict in the Azerbidjan district should extend to Northern Mesopotamia, and induce an unsettled condition in the country to be traversed by the Bagdad Railway; but I am still more disposed to regard His Excellency's intervention as a sign of his Government's desire to prove to the Shah that Germany takes an interest in Persian affairs, and regards them as naturally falling within the sphere of her influence and action.

Baron von Marschall is not particularly addicted to paying visits to his colleagues, but the other day he called at the Persian Embassy, and took some trouble to impress on Prince Riza Khan that he had spoken very seriously about the 'Turco-Persian imbroglio to Izzet Pasha, the Sultan's Second Secretary, in whose hands the conduct of the question has been placed, and how he had pointed out the illegality of the Turkish action in occupying and retaining possession of Passova, which, being to the east of the debateable zone laid down in the Anglo-Russian Commissioners' map of 1869, must incontestably be in Persian territory. He expressed also the wish to be kept informed of the course of the negotiations, and contrived throughout his conversation to convey the impression that Germany was interested equally with the two mediating Powers in the question, and that his benevolent interference merited the grateful recognition of the Persian Government. The Persian Ambassador appears to have fallen into the trap at once, and to have thankfully expressed his appreciation of Baron von Marschall's comforting assurances and unsolicited support.

When his Highness told me what had occurred, I suggested that he might do well to secure the support not only of Germany but also of France and the other Great Powers, as I had no doubt that all the Ambassadors at Constantinople would be as ready to afford reasonable support and aid in composing the quarrel as our German colleague had been.

Prince Riza Khan replied that he would explain the situation to the French Ambassador and the Italian Chargé d'Affaires and invoke their good offices, and I myself took an opportunity this afternoon of acquainting M. Constans with the present phase of this question.

Another symptom of Germany's interest in Persian affairs, which we cannot afford to overlook and which would seem to be part and parcel of some policy for a definite end, is the recent establishment by the Hamburg-American Company of a service of steamers to the Persian Gulf.

In face of the above facts it appears to me very probable that if Great Britain and Russia do not very soon come to an agreement with regard to their respective interests in Persia, they may find themselves confronted there with Germany very much as did France in Morocco. Indeed, I am almost afraid that the psychological moment for an arrangement *à deux* may be already passed.

As I walked with my Russian colleague from the Persian Embassy, where we met yesterday to discuss the frontier dispute, I mentioned to him my idea that Baron von Marschall's attitude in the question boded a more active interest in Persian affairs, which might make us regret that we had tarried so long in coming to an understanding. M. Zinoview replied that things did wear that appearance, but that, as I knew, he had always been in favour of an understanding with England, and he had

not failed to express that opinion to his Government, feeling that he was entitled to do so on account of his intimate acquaintance with and long residence in Persia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

[14475]

No. 95.

*Mr. Spring-Rice to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 30.)*

(No. 281.)

Sir,

*St. Petersburg, April 24, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a private letter which I have received from Count Lamsdorff in reply to the letter which I had addressed to him on the subject of the run on the Imperial Bank of Persia, which, as was stated, was organized in the office of the Russian Banque d'Escompte. You will observe that M. Grube, the Manager of the Russian Bank, entirely denies the accusation that his bank was concerned in the run on the Imperial Bank, and asserts that, on the contrary, he offered his assistance by continuing to accept the notes issued by that institution. He also denies that he failed to give due notice of the intention of the Banque d'Escompte to offer notes for payment. In conversation with M. Hartwig, I told him that I had communicated the account of the incident to Count Lamsdorff in a private manner, and in pursuance of the desire he had expressed that the two Governments should communicate with one another frankly as to any question which might arise of a nature likely to lead to a misunderstanding. He said he was grateful for the step I had taken, and expressed the hope that the incident was now at an end.

With regard to M. Grube's statements, I may remark that, according to the account furnished to me by M. Rabino, the Manager of the Imperial Bank, certain native bankers connected with Tabreez held a meeting in the Banque d'Escompte with a view to concerted action against the note issue of the Imperial Bank, and subsequently waited upon the richest merchant in Tehran and assured him that the Banque d'Escompte had agreed to finance the movement, which, in fact, began shortly afterwards. He also is positive as to the fact that no notice was given by the Bank of its intention of presenting notes for payment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CECIL SPRING-RICE.

Inclosure in No. 95.

*Count Lamsdorff to Mr. Spring-Rice.*

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

*Le 10 (23) Avril, 1906.*

POUR faire suite à ma lettre en date du 3 Avril courant, je m'empresse de vous faire part des renseignements qui me sont parvenus au sujet des faits qui se sont passés à Téhéran dans les premiers jours du mois de Mars dernier, lors du commencement du "boycott" des billets émis par la Banque Schah-in-Schahi.

La première impulsion avait été donnée à ces événements par le fait que la hausse du prix de l'argent avait provoqué une exportation notable des krans Persans aux Indes, où on les faisait fondre pour en frapper des roupies. Le manque de monnaie qui en résulta eut pour effet de provoquer la défiance envers les billets de Banque Schah-in-Schahi et les commerçants Persans commencèrent à présenter ces billets au paiement d'abord à Ispahan et Yezd, ensuite à Tauris et à Téhéran même, où le mouvement prit des dimensions plus considérables en raison même de l'importance de ce marché. Le "boycott" se déroula sans que la Banque d'Escompte y eût aucunement participé. Le bruit concernant un conciliabule qui aurait eu lieu dans les bureaux de la Banque d'Escompte de Téhéran entre l'Administration de cette dernière et les négociants indigènes, en vue d'organiser une présentation en masse des billets de la Banque Anglaise au paiement, est absolument dénué de tout fondement. Les faits, tels qu'ils se sont passés en réalité, font preuve, au contraire, non seulement d'une attitude tout à fait correcte de la Banque d'Escompte envers la Banque Schah-in-Schahi, mais encore du soutien que la première de ces banques accorda à l'autre dans des circonstances particulièrement graves. Il paraît que de nombreux commerçants se sont présentés à la Banque d'Escompte en demandant à savoir si elle

acceptait les billets en question pour les paiements en cours et reçut une réponse affirmative. Le "boycott" des billets par le public commença vers le 5 Mars. L'affluence de monde à la Imperial Bank of Persia était tellement grande que la place située devant l'édifice se trouvait comblée par la foule. La Banque, qui, conformément aux renseignements dont on dispose à Téhéran, avait émis des billets pour 2,800,000 tomans, et dont la caisse ne disposait que d'une somme ne surpassant pas 1,200,000 tomans en espèces, faisait des difficultés au change et ne remboursait pas plus de 5,000 tomans par jour, ce qui ne représente évidemment qu'une somme minime. L'agio sur les billets atteignit au bazar le taux de 10 pour cent. La Banque d'Escompte, ainsi que toutes ses agences, dans le seul but d'accorder leur appui dans la mesure du possible à la Imperial Bank, continuaient à accepter les billets qui leur affluaient dans la journée, mais, ne pouvant onérer leurs caisses de valeurs qu'il leur était impossible de remettre en circulation, vu les refus du public de les accepter, et étant tenues de satisfaire en monnaie sonnante aux exigences des clients, se voyaient obligées de présenter ces billets à la Banque Schah-in-Schahi tous les soirs pour les faire changer contre de la monnaie d'argent. Il est à noter spécialement que la Banque Russe s'est invariablement conformée à l'usage établi, et ne manquait pas de prévenir la Banque Anglaise des demandes d'espèces qu'elle comptait lui présenter, et que c'est, au contraire, cette dernière qui faisait volontairement des retards au change. Il paraît que le Chargé d'Affaires d'Angleterre à Téhéran avait communiqué oralement à M. Grube, dans une conversation particulière, la teneur des plaintes que l'Administration de la Imperial Bank élevait contre la Banque d'Escompte, à quoi il lui fut répondu qu'une plainte pareille, faite d'une manière officielle, aurait provoqué de la part de l'Administration de la Banque d'Escompte une action en calomnie, d'une manière également officielle, et par l'entremise de la Légation Impériale à Téhéran, contre M. Rabino, Directeur de la Imperial Bank of Persia.

Je me plais à constater le caractère tout à fait précis des faits énoncés ci-dessus, qui excluent toute idée d'hostilité de la part de la Banque d'Escompte envers la Banque Schah-in-Schahi.

Veillez, &c.

(Signé) LAMSDORFF.

[14697]

No. 96.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 30.)*

(No. 126.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, April 30, 1906.*

BAKHITIARI road. Your telegram No. 69.

I have asked the Government of India to send you a copy of Major Morton's report direct. It has only just reached me.

The Chiefs, after several urgent appeals on my part, have promised to repair the road.

[14433]

No. 97.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir N. O'Connor.*

(No. 55.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, April 30, 1906.*

PERSO-TURKISH frontier disputes.

I made a suggestion to Count Benckendorff to the effect that the Porte might be requested by the Russian and His Majesty's Governments, jointly, to refer to their arbitration the dispute concerning the Persian boundary; that, in the probable event of a refusal by the Ottoman Government, I did not see what steps could be taken; but that we should be prepared to take into consideration any steps which might be proposed by the Russian Government. I agree that we should not expose ourselves to a rebuff until something practical has been proposed. The urgent question for ourselves is that of the Egyptian frontier. Some other questions may be cleared up at the same time if we are compelled to take strong measures about that one.

Above is with reference to your telegram No. 70 of the 28th instant.

[13124]

No. 98.

*Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Spring-Rice.*

(No. 190.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, April 30, 1906.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 211 of the 27th ultimo, reporting the communication of the Seistan Water Award to the Russian Government.

The terms of your letter to M. Hartwig on this subject are approved by His Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

[14923]

No. 99.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 2.)*

Sir,

*India Office, May 1, 1906.*

WITH reference to my letter of the 10th May, 1905, and Sir H. Walpole's letter of the 20th September, 1905, on the subject of the insecurity of the trade routes in South-Eastern Persia, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to inclose, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter from the Government of India on the subject.

The proposals of the Government of India for the improvement of the existing state of things are to establish new Consular Agencies at Bampur (unless the Persian Government continue to make our acceptance of a Persian Consul at Quetta a condition of their assent), at Rafsinjan, and at Sirjan; and they estimate the cost of each Agency at about 500*l.* a-year, besides a small outlay on initial expenses.

They further propose to increase temporarily the Consular guard at Kerman by 18 sowars, for the purpose of enabling small detachments to travel periodically between Bunder Abbas and Kerman, thus affording traders an opportunity of sending their caravans under escort.

The cost of this proposal is estimated at about 1,060*l.* a-year and 470*l.* initial.

The expenditure involved in these measures would, under the existing arrangement, be divisible between the Imperial and the Indian Exchequers, and it will be seen that the recommendations of the Government of India are made subject to the condition that the cost shall be so divided. I am therefore to inquire whether the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs would be prepared to approach the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury with a view to their accepting a moiety of the expense.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 99.

*The Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

Sir,

*Fort William, March 15, 1906.*

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Brodrick's Secret d patches dated respectively the 12th May and 22nd September, 1905, in which our views are invited regarding proposals for improving the security of the Bunder Abbas-Kerman trade route.

2. Of the various proposals which have been made in connection with this question, two appear worthy of serious consideration—

(a.) The projected increase in the number of Consular officers in the neighbourhood;

(b.) The establishment of road-guards, and the increase of the Kerman Consular guard from 6 to 24 sowars.

3. In connection with the first scheme, we observe that His Majesty's Minister at Tehran considers that the Persian Government might agree to the appointment of Consular Agents at Sirjan and Rafsinjan, and that he entertains no doubt that a Consular Agent would be recognized by the Persian Government at Bampur, if the Government of India would withdraw their objection to the residence of a Persian Consular officer at Quetta. We are of opinion that the appointment of Consular officers at these places would be beneficial to the interests of British trade, and would fully justify the comparatively small expenditure likely to be involved. We consider that the officers may be ordinary Indian Consular Agents, Indian Hospital Assistants without Consular status, or Indian Hospital Assistants with the rank of Consular Agent, but preferably the last, and we should be prepared to pay a moiety of the emoluments and of the cost of their establishment. A statement is attached which shows that the estimated cost of the appointment of these Consular Agents would be 1,200 rupees initial, and 12,464 rupees annually recurring. We do not, however, think it advisable that the proposal to appoint a representative at Bampur should be pressed if the Persian Government should make our acceptance of a Persian Consul at Quetta a condition of their consent, as the objections to such an appointment already detailed in Secret-External despatch dated the 22nd May, 1902, seem to possess additional force in the light of the experience of the past three years. In case it be finally decided that it is not advisable to press for as many as three fresh Consular posts, we may mention that, in our opinion, the scale of importance in present circumstances is as follows: Bampur (as being the centre of a district where at present there is no British Consular supervision at all, and as being nearest to the Indian frontier); Rafsinjan, the centre of the most populous district in the province of Kerman, and point of junction where the Bunder Abbas post leaves the main Kerman-Yezd line; and Sirjan which, though stated by Major Sykes to be the key of the main caravan routes, is at present unconnected by telegraph with the outer world. We concur in the recommendation contained in Major Sykes' letter to Sir A. Hardinge of 27th February, 1905, that steps should be taken to open a telegraph office at Rafsinjan, and that Sirjan should be connected with that place by a branch telegraph line. It may, however, be advisable to defer moving in the latter project until our agent has been installed at Sirjan.

4. With reference to Mr. Brodrick's despatch of the 22nd September, 1905, we agree fully with the views expressed by Captain Haworth as to the need for special measures for the protection of the trade routes between Bunder Abbas and Kerman, and we concur in the terms of the note addressed by Sir Arthur Hardinge to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh on the 2nd August, 1905. We see no sufficient reason, however, for making a spontaneous offer of a subsidy to assist the Shah in the performance of duties which it is obviously incumbent upon the Persian Government themselves to discharge. We also think there would be advantage in the cautious and experimental adoption of the suggestion advanced by Captain Haworth, that small detachments from his escort should travel periodically between Bunder Abbas and Kerman, and that traders should be afforded the opportunity of dispatching their caravans under the convoy thus afforded. For this purpose we should be prepared to make a small temporary increase in the number of Indian troopers employed in this part of Persia. A statement is attached, which shows that the estimated cost of increasing the Kerman Consular escort from 6 to 24 sowars would be 6,984 rupees initial, and 15,774 rupees recurring, excluding clothing. Since Captain Haworth's proposals were formulated, a small mounted escort has been attached to the Consulate at Bunder Abbas. This detachment might be utilized in co-operation with the Kerman escort, and a part of the further increase which would be required might be attached to the Vice-Consul whose temporary appointment to Bam was sanctioned in your telegram of the 18th January last. Should the Persian Government object to such an arrangement, they might be reminded that the measure had been necessitated by the insecurity against which we have so frequently urged them to guard, and it might be explained that we hoped that the informal expedient thus temporarily adopted might avert the need for measures of a more far-reaching character, such as were recently foreshadowed in the instructions given by Lord Lansdowne to Mr. Grant Duff in connection with the anarchy which now prevails in Fars.

5. The total value of the trade of the port of Bunder Abbas for the last three

[1617]

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years has, as shown in the margin,\* averaged nearly half-a-million sterling, of which a considerable proportion has been with the United Kingdom; and though it would be difficult to form a just estimate of the increase likely to result from the proposed measures, we are convinced that the trade cannot expand to anything approaching its full possibilities until a reasonable measure of safety has been secured on the route. The general insecurity prevailing on the trade routes in Southern Persia is apparent from the instructions issued to Mr. Grant Duff, as stated in the telegram to his Excellency the Viceroy, dated the 30th November, 1905. We would also invite a reference to the despatches, cited on the margin,† from His Majesty's Legation at Tehran bearing on this question. We desire in this connection to invite attention to the recommendations made by Mr. Gleadowe-Newcomen, President of the Commercial Mission to Persia, on pp. 19-27 of his Report, which was communicated to Mr. Brodrick in our despatch Secret-External of the 7th December, 1905. The adoption by His Majesty's Government of the present proposals will be all the more necessary should they decide eventually to proceed with the larger scheme of developing communication from the coast to the Central Persia Plateau via Minab and Regan, which is strongly recommended by the Commercial Mission, and in regard to which his Excellency the Viceroy addressed Mr. Brodrick in his telegram of the 19th August, 1905.

6. The total expenditure involved in the foregoing proposals, as shown in the attached statement, amounts to 8,184 rupees initial, and 29,238 rupees recurring, exclusive of a small provision for the clothing of the additional sowars. A moiety of these charges should, we consider, be met by the Imperial Exchequer, in accordance with the principle at present regulating the division of charges for the maintenance of British interests in Persia. The modification of this principle, which was accepted by us in the Viceroy's telegram of the 12th December, 1905, and which provided that His Majesty's Government and the Government of India should, in future, be held responsible for any increase due to their own initiative in the cost of their respective Consulates, is, we take it, only a general rule which applies to existing Consulates, and which may be departed from for good cause in particular cases. It appears to us that this is such a case, since British trade interests are very largely concerned. We would therefore wish it to be understood that our recommendations, as stated in the above paragraphs, are subject to the condition that a moiety of the expenditure will be met by the Imperial Exchequer.

We have, &c.  
(Signed) MINTO.  
KITCHENER.  
A. T. ARUNDEL.  
DENZIL IBBETSON.  
H. ERLE RICHARDS.  
J. P. HEWETT.  
E. N. BAKER.  
C. H. SCOTT.

\* Total value of the trade of Bunder Abbas:—

	1902.	1903.	1904.
	£	£	£
Imports .. .. .	399,291	449,145	317,808
Exports .. .. .	97,331	138,632	122,165
Direct trade with the United Kingdom—			
Imports .. .. .	130,228	151,211	99,134
Exports .. .. .	8,994	7,597	7,493

†November 1, 1905, and inclosures; December 5, 1905, and inclosure.

## Inclosure 2 in No. 99.

### Estimated Cost of Establishing a Consular Agency in South-East Persia.

Expenditure on account of outfit, provision of tents, camp furniture, &c. ..	Rupees.
Cost of three agencies .. .. .	400
	1,200
RECURRING.	
Pay of Agent .. .. .	150
Sumptuary allowance .. .. .	40
Horse allowance .. .. .	20
Munshi .. .. .	40
2 peons at 12 rupees each .. .. .	24
Stationery—Petty contingent expenditure .. .. .	10
2 sowars at 20 rupees .. .. .	40
Toshakhana allowance .. .. .	50
Total .. .. .	374 per mensem, or 4,488 per annum.*
Cost of three agencies .. .. .	13,464 ..

### Estimated Recurring Cost of adding 18 Sowars to the Kerman Escort.

1 dafadar at 42 rupees per mensem	} 581 rupees per mensem, or ..	Rupees.
2 lance dafadars at 37 rupees per mensem		6,972 per annum.
15 sowars at 31 rupees per mensem		
Rations for above .. .. .		6,300 ..
Feed and keep of horses .. .. .		2,070 ..
4 syces at 9 rupees each, 36 rupees per mensem		432 ..
Recurring total .. .. .		15,774* ..
INITIAL CHARGE.		
Provision of horses, saddlery, and line gear for above .. .. .		6,984* rupees.

[14995]

No. 100.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 3.)

Sir,

India Office, May 2, 1906.

WITH reference to Mr. Grant Duff's telegram No. 115 of the 21st April, regarding the Luristan road, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to inclose, for Sir E. Grey's consideration, a copy of a telegram from the Government of India on the subject.

Subject to Sir E. Grey's opinion, Mr. Morley is not disposed to move in the matter at the present time.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 100.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

April 25, 1906.

ON the 20th April we addressed following telegram to Grant Duff, and repeated it to the Resident in the Persian Gulf:—

"Your telegram, dated the 21st March: Trade route in Luristan. With reference to letter from Major Cox, dated the 18th March, perhaps Vice-Consul, Ahwaz, might be able to pay visit to Vali of Pusht-i-Koh and find out something about nature of country and attitude and position of Vali; but we doubt whether present is very

\* Exclusive of a small charge for clothing, which has not yet been calculated.



suitable time for taking up matter seriously. If you would let us have your views we should be glad."

Reply to above is telegram from His Majesty's Legation at Tehran, No. 171, dated the 21st April, which was repeated to the Foreign Office. Should whole question be left over for the present, or do you desire that action as suggested should be taken by Vice-Consul, Ahwaz?

[15107]

No. 101.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 4.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 1st May, relative to the offence committed by a Persian subject at Bahrein and the question of jurisdiction.

*India Office, May 3, 1906.*

Inclosure in No. 101.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*India Office, May 1, 1906.*

BAHREIN. Your telegram dated the 6th ultimo. Can you, with a view to devising some more convenient manner of settling case, obtain further particulars, and especially of the present whereabouts of the person implicated? At present moment raising with Persia of question of jurisdiction is very undesirable.

[15189]

No. 102.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 4.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 3rd May, relative to the plague in Seistan.

*India Office, May 4, 1906.*

Inclosure in No. 102.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

*May 3, 1906.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

I REPEAT, for your information, following telegrams from Macpherson, dated respectively the 25th and 26th ultimo, regarding plague in Seistan:—

1. "Arrival at Birjand of Russian doctor, with a few Turkoman sowars and four Russian Cossacks, is announced."

2. "With reference to extract 19 of Part III of Seistan plague series, no instructions as to disposal of compounder and extra hospital assistants have yet been received by me."

"Either commissioned medical officer, or, at any rate, picked military assistant surgeon, should be sent to Birjand, where at present we have no doctor, if competition with Russians on equal terms is intended. There remains third alternative of asking Persian Government that our right to equal participation in quarantine arrangements may be formally recognized, at the same time giving status of Vice-Consul, with an

escort equal to that of Russian doctor, to Howson, and sending hospital assistant to Birjand. It is desirable that a decision regarding this question of medical arrangements at Birjand should be arrived at."

As regards sending British doctor to Birjand, His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran is being consulted by us.

[15282]

No. 103.

*Consul-General Sir W. Ward to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 5.)*

(No. 1.)

Sir,

*Hamburg, May 2, 1906.*

WITH reference to Sir Eldon Gorst's despatch No. 2 of the 27th ultimo, conveying to me your instructions to furnish my observations as to the truth of the report which appeared in the "Times" of the 23rd ultimo, to the effect that the Hamburg-American Line had announced that it will shortly inaugurate a new steamship service from Hamburg and other European ports, to ports in the Persian Gulf, I have the honour to state as follows:—

It is true that the Hamburg-American Steamship Company contemplate establishing a monthly steamer service from Hamburg via Antwerp or Rotterdam and Mediterranean ports, and via Port Said to the Persian Gulf, which is to commence running about next September, and I am informed that the Company has for this purpose already appointed an Agent at Bushire.

The Directors of the Hamburg-American Steamship Company consider that they will, in course of a short time, be able to obtain sufficient freight for this new steamer service, viz., more especially sugar, piece goods, &c. On the other hand, however, competent persons at Hamburg are also of opinion that this project of the Hamburg-American Line is by no means certain yet of being realized, for the intended service would, it is thought, doubtless meet with serious competition, not alone on the part of the British Peninsular and Oriental Line, but also on the part of the German Hansa Line, the vessels of which now already call on their homeward voyages from Bombay and Kurrachee to Hamburg at Persian Gulf ports.

I may, perhaps, with reference to this subject, take the liberty of transmitting inclosed herewith, for your information, a translation of an article which appeared on the 28th ultimo in the leading Hamburg newspaper, "Hamburger Nachrichten," and which professes to be a letter sent to this paper by its Constantinople correspondent. I am, of course, not able to give any opinion as to whether the statements made in this letter may be correct or not.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) WILLIAM WARD.

Inclosure in No. 103.

*Extract from the "Hamburger Nachrichten" of April 28, 1906.*

(Translation.)

*"Constantinople, April 24, 1906.*

"THE news that the Hamburg-American Steamship Company had decided to inaugurate a steamer service to the Persian Gulf has caused considerable uneasiness to the British Embassy at Constantinople. Great Britain regards the Persian Gulf as her own particular sphere of interest, and she will no doubt look upon this project of a German Steamship Company, especially in connection with the Bagdad Railway, as an unwarrantable infringement upon this sphere.

"As to whether such a line will be financially profitable, I am not able to form any opinion. It is, however, a fact that for some years already the wish has been expressed by the German Consulates at Bagdad and Bushire that German Steamship Companies should extend their steamer lines to the principal ports of the Persian Gulf, that is to say, as far as Bussorah, which, no doubt, one day will form the terminal point of the Bagdad Railway.

"Against this view it is, however, asserted in other quarters that the condition of affairs in Persia, as well as in the Euphrates and Tigris Valleys, is not of a character

[1617]

to render the establishment of a German Steamship Line in the Persian Gulf desirable.

"However this may be, a steamship line between Hamburg and Bussorah will contribute towards gradually accustoming the British to the idea that they are not the exclusive masters of the Persian Gulf."

[15379]

No. 101.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 5.)*

(No. 128.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, May 5, 1906.

FOLLOWING addressed to India:—

"Birjand quarantine.

"Persian Government has been asked to furnish Captain Watson, whom you propose to send to Birjand from Turbat-i-Haidari, with quarantine powers equal to those of the Russian doctor."

[15400]

No. 105.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 5.)*

(No. 129.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, May 5, 1906.

SEISTAN disturbances: Telegram of the 4th instant from His Majesty's Consul in Seistan to Government of India.

There is no sign here that any steps will be taken to arrest the ringleaders in the Nasratabad riots of the 27th March.

Some time ago I sent in their names to the Persian Government, and demanded 100L. damages estimated by Consul.

I recommend threat to Persian Government that if satisfaction is not given and compensation paid within a reasonable time we shall bring in troops to Nasratabad.

[15005]

No. 106.

*Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Grant Duff.*

(No. 73.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, May 5, 1906.

YOU should make a proposal to the Persian Government with regard to Hienjam, that the ground should be accurately surveyed in order that a settlement of the question may be facilitated.

If the Persian Government agree to this, instructions will be sent to the Government of India to send to Hienjam an official properly qualified to survey.

Above is with reference to your telegram No. 113.

[15401]

No. 107.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 6.)*

(No. 130.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, May 6, 1906.

PERSO-TURKISH frontier dispute.

Persian Government have apparently acquiesced in the non-withdrawal of the Turkish troops, and are sending a Commission to the Turkish frontier under the Persian Minister at Berlin, who is at present in Tehran.

[15445]

No. 108.

*Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 7.)*

(No. 288.)

Sir,

Constantinople, April 27, 1906.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 260 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to report that the Russian Ambassador called on me by appointment to-day and read to me correspondence which he had received from Count Benckendorff and Count Lamsdorff on the subject of the Turco-Persian boundary question.

The Russian Ambassador in London reported that he had heard from you that you had advised the Persian Government to avoid being led into hostilities, but that, though you considered the action of the Turks in occupying Passova to be wholly unjustifiable, you did not clearly see what measures the mediating Powers could adopt. His Majesty's Government would, however, be ready to give their most careful consideration to any proposals which the Russian Government might make to bring pressure to bear on the Porte with a view to the withdrawal of the troops.

The second document was a telegram from Count Lamsdorff, instructing M. Zinoviev to discuss the situation with me and to report any conclusions we might arrive at.

We had a long conversation, but, though we failed to reach any definite result as to any measures that could be taken, it was clear to me that the Russian Government do not feel that they are in a position to employ the persuasive force of a military move on the frontier. M. Zinoviev mooted the possibility of our calling on the Turkish Government to submit the question to our joint arbitration, to which I replied that I saw objections to such a course, unless we were prepared to insist on the proposal being accepted. Simply to make the proposal, which, in existing circumstances, I felt sure would be rejected, and then do nothing, would lower the credit and power of both Powers.

I said that, although it could not be denied that the information we had of the movement of troops all pointed logically to aggressive intentions on the part of Turkey, I could, nevertheless, not help thinking that the Ottoman Government would not carry things to that extreme, as I felt that our joint intervention and the interference of the German Ambassador, whatever might be the motives that prompted it, could not fail to have considerable effect in favour of Persia. We could, however, go a little further than we had yet done, without making a definite proposal of arbitration such as he had spoken of. We might, if we saw fit, give the Turkish Government to understand that if matters were pushed to extremes we could not remain indifferent spectators, and if their policy resulted in a conflagration, not only in the districts immediately in dispute, but also throughout Southern Persia and the Persian Gulf regions, Turkey would only have herself to thank if she drifted into grave danger. Such a conflagration once set alight might move in any direction, and if it returned on its authors they would find the results very different from what they had expected.

I concluded by saying that, at any rate, I should like to think out the question more carefully, and promised M. Zinoviev that I would discuss it again with him in a few days.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

[15450]

No. 109.

*Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 7.)*

(No. 294.)

Sir,

Constantinople, May 1, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to report that, since I wrote my despatch No. 288 of the 27th ultimo, the Turco-Persian frontier has entered on a new phase, and one which I hope may pave the way to a friendly solution.

The Persian Ambassador has been constantly pressing the Porte to send him a reply of some kind to his notes of the 17th March (copies inclosed in my despatch No. 188 of the 20th March), as he felt that the failure to do so was tantamount to an insult, considering the language of the Turkish communication, to which they were an answer.

On the 26th ultimo he renewed his representations to the Grand Vizier, and urged

him to accept one of two alternative proposals, in both of which the question of the evacuation of Passova would be tacitly dropped. The first was to the effect that the Porte should agree to refer the whole question to the arbitration of the two mediating Powers, and the second that a joint Turco-Persian Commission should meet, and that, in the event of their being unable to come to an Agreement, the Porte should accept the Anglo-Russian Protocol of 1865. The same evening the Persian proposals and representations were laid before the Sultan by Ferid Pasha, who, after an audience of some hours, was authorized by His Imperial Majesty to request the Ambassador to send his Dragoman to discuss the question with Izzet Pasha, the Imperial Second Secretary. Prince Riza Khan agreed to do so, and, at the interview which took place next day, Izzet Pasha explained to Ohannes Khan that the question could only be settled if the Persian Government would send a Commission to examine the question with the Turkish Delegates already on the frontier, and on the Dragoman inquiring whether, in that case, the Ottoman troops would be removed from Passova, replied that this was absolutely impossible, as the occupation of that place had been effected by the Sultan's own orders, and that, whether their presence there was justifiable or not, the troops could not be withdrawn.

Matters seemed thus to be at a deadlock, but yesterday the Persian Ambassador returned to the charge, insisting with the Grand Vizier on his right to receive a reply to his notes, and hinting that a refusal on the part of the Porte to do would be interpreted as a desire to break off negotiations, and that the relations between the two Mussulman countries would be subjected to a serious, and even dangerous, strain. Finally, however, a compromise on the lines suggested by the Ambassador was arrived at, by which the Porte was to address a reply to the Persian Embassy, requesting that the Persian Government should send a Commission to meet the Turkish Commission on the frontier, while on his side the Ambassador engaged to transmit the note to his Government, on the understanding that it would not repeat the offensive statement of the Turkish note of the 18th Mouharrem (11th March) that not Passova only, but also other places even further east were in Ottoman territory. No allusion was to be made to the question of the evacuation of Passova, but the Persian Ambassador urged that it would be well that the Ottoman Ambassador at Tehran should be instructed to make a similar communication direct to the Persian Government.

The Turkish note reached the Ambassador in due course, and this morning he called on me, as also on my Russian colleague, with whom I had some further conversation on the question last night, and informed us of what had passed. We both expressed to his Highness our opinion that the Persian Government should not reject the Turkish request for the meeting of the Joint Commission, as the language of the note in which it was conveyed was friendly and conciliatory. I have the honour to transmit a copy of the note which Prince Riza Khan has since been good enough to send me.

The Persian Ambassador also informed me, confidentially, that he had reason to believe, from the language of the Grand Vizier, that the chief Turkish Commissioner, Vadjid Pasha, would be supplied with a copy of the map drawn up by the Anglo-Russian Commissioners and presented to the Ottoman Government in 1869. Vadjid Pasha would see from this map that Passova lay outside the debatable zone, and his Highness hoped that on his reporting in this sense to the Palace it would be possible to persuade the Sultan to withdraw his troops from that place, and that the question would then be susceptible of a diplomatic solution.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 109.

*Note communicated to Persian Embassy by Sublime Porte.*

(Traduction.)

J'AI l'honneur d'accuser réception à votre Altesse de la note en date du 27 Sepher, 1324, inclus d'une pièce émanant du Ministère des Affaires Étrangères de Téhéran, concernant les lieux contestés.

A ce sujet le point de vue du Gouvernement Impérial a été exprimé à plusieurs reprises au Gouvernement Impérial de Téhéran.

La foi de l'Islam qui relie nos deux Gouvernements et le bon voisinage exigent que cette question soit tranchée d'une façon conforme aux intérêts et aux droits des

deux parties, et par suite des ordres catégoriques donnés à son Excellence Vadjid Pacha, Chef de la Commission, il n'existe plus aucun motif pour que cette affaire reste en souffrance.

La sagesse éclairée de votre Altesse, et vos hautes connaissances des affaires, feront approuver la nécessité que cette affaire ait une prompte solution.

L'Ambassade Impériale de Téhéran est avisée; je prie votre Altesse aussi de faire des démarches nécessaires pour que le plus tôt possible la Commission soit nommée et envoyée de Téhéran sur les lieux pour entrer en pourparlers avec notre Commission.

Veillez, &c.  
(Signé) TEWFIK.

Le 30 Avril, 1906.

[15460]

No. 110.

*Sir N. O'Conor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 7.)*

(No. 302.) (? 303.)

Sir,

*Constantinople, May 2, 1906.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 294 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a Report on the Turco-Persian frontier incident which Mr. Avalon Shipley, His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Diarbekir, has sent me from Mosul whither he recently proceeded on a short leave of absence from his post which I had accorded him on the grounds of ill-health.

The Report is the first complete and trustworthy information which I have received of the origin of the present critical situation in the Lahidjan district, and it is interesting to trace the phases by which an ordinary tribal quarrel, followed by the intervention of the neighbouring Turkish authorities at the instance of the weaker side, has been allowed to develop through the intrigues and ambitions of Izzet Bey, of Kerkuk, supported by other persons of influence in high quarters, into an armed invasion of places lying beyond the neutral frontier zone, culminating in the occupation in force of Passova, and the concentration of a large number of Turkish troops on the Persian frontier.

Mr. Shipley, writing on the 9th April, states that the Turkish force then on the spot consisted of eighteen battalions of infantry and two batteries of artillery; to those must be added the troops reported to have left Mosul for Vazneh on the 25th and 27th March, in the telegram copy of which was inclosed in my despatch No. 260, Confidential, of the 17th ultimo.

I have recently received a later telegram from His Majesty's Acting Consul-General at Bagdad, informing me on the authority of the Consular Agent at Mosul, that on the 7th April, the 2nd Battalion of the 32nd Regiment and the 3rd Battalion of the 33rd Regiment left that place for Vazneh, and that the 1st Battalion of the 29th Regiment left for the same destination on the 9th ultimo. It is also reported that strenuous efforts are being made to collect transport near Mosul.

According to these different sources of information, the Turkish force now stationed in the Lahidjan district would appear to amount to twenty-three battalions of infantry and four batteries of artillery with twenty-four guns.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 110.

*Vice-Consul Shipley to Sir N. O'Conor.*

Sir,

*Mosul, April 9, 1906.*

IT has been with great difficulty that I have been able to obtain any trustworthy information concerning the Turco-Persian frontier question, and the following short report which I have the honour to submit to your Excellency is the result of sifting a great mass of conflicting details and piecing them together into a probable whole. In no case have I included a statement which was not corroborated by either the Vali or one of the three Generals at present in Mosul without qualifying it.

Your Excellency must excuse me if I go over ground already well known to you. The district on the Turco-Persian frontier called Lahtchan (Lahijan), which includes

[1647]

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the villages of Vezne and Passona (Passova), was, according to the Turks, adjudicated to them about thirty years ago by a Mixed Commission sent to determine the boundary. The Turkish Government, however, have never exercised any real authority over the tribes which either inhabited it at the time or which have since been attracted to it by its fertility and the evident advantages of living on neutral territory.

All these tribes are Sunni, and I have little doubt that were they forced to choose between the two Governments they would opt for the Ottoman; but hitherto they have refused to acknowledge either definitely, claiming Persian nationality when the Turks, and Ottoman when the Persians, claimed the payment of taxes.

Thus, they lived happily and increased greatly, till, according to Major Saïd Bey, member of a Commission of which I shall speak presently, they can now number 15,000 rifles. The principal tribes are the Mangarur and Mamash. The former has its head-quarters at Vezne, and had, till a short time ago, Papir Agha for Chief; the latter's head-quarters are at Passova, and its Chiefs were—again till a short time ago—Muhammad Agha (Mamash) and his brother Hamza.

(I can, in spite of inquiries, hear nothing of Mehemet Agha, Sheikh of the Huhah (? Shihah) tribe mentioned in your Excellency's telegram. The Shikha live, according to my information, much further north, on the Van-Urmia boundary-line, and do not appear to be directly concerned in this matter.)

Of these Chiefs, Muhammad Agha Mamash was the most powerful, and he had succeeded in establishing a sort of control, nearly amounting to an independent Government, over the tribes in the Lahijan plain. His brother Hamza, jealous of his power and angry at his own exclusion from any share in it, separated from him and appealed to the Turkish Government against him.

So far, then, we have nothing but an ordinary intertribal or family quarrel, with the usual appeal by the weaker side to the titular authorities—a very common occurrence in this country; and it is very likely that the matter would have ended by Hamza's merely supplanting Muhammad, with the help of a few zaptiehs, if other influences had not been at work.

Whether a certain Izzet Bey actually planned and effected the rupture between the two brothers—as is held here—or not, this was the opportunity for which he was watching.

Izzet Bey is a native of Kerkuk, an important town in this vilayet, and six months ago, when first he appears on the scene, Cavalry Kaïmakam. He is described as very ambitious and perfectly unscrupulous, and, according to the Turks, it is he, for his own ends, who has reopened the frontier question.

Appealed to by Hamza, Izzet Bey intervened at once, reported that Muhammad had built a strong fort commanding a defile leading into the Lahtehan plain, and obtained permission to form a Commission to inquire into the matter. Accompanied by two Staff officers and fifty cavalry, by Hamza himself with over 100 of his men, and by Bais Agha, of the Nanghour, of an equal number, this force of about 300 proceeded to attack Muhammad's "fort."

Muhammad, after seeing troops on the enemy's side, fled after firing a few shots, with some of his men into the interior (Tabreez, it is said), while Izzet Bey destroyed the fort, which an officer with the troops said was merely a summer-house.

Papir Agha, who had stayed with Muhammad Mamash, was deprived of official recognition as head of the Nanghour, and Bais Agha succeeded him, while Muhammad of the Prian tribe took the place of Muhammad Mamash. By far the greater part of these tribes declared for the Turkish Government, and I hear have actually crossed into undisputed Turkish territory. Bais Agha has received an Order and a salary of 3*l.* a-month, and it is commonly rumoured that he has been appointed Kaïmakam of Vezne.

After having successfully destroyed the summer-house of the Lahtehan heights, Izzet Bey occupied the three villages of Vezne, Passona, and Kelhe, whence all but the poorest inhabitants had fled. He further wrote highly-coloured reports of Persian aggression, of which Muhammad Agha Mamash was but a weak vanguard, on the massing of troops behind the mountains and the necessity of immediate action.

His reports were energetically endorsed by Noury Pasha, then Vali of Mosul, a notorious "money-eater," and by the Commander-in-chief of the VIth Army Corps, who, I am assured by the local Commander, has regretted it ever since.

Izzet Bey became Izzet Pasha, Major-General of Cavalry, commanding the troops in Sulimaniéh, and the concentration of Turkish troops in this vilayet began. This was some five or six months ago.

An Imperial Commission was appointed, consisting of Vajid Pasha from Con-

stantinople and three staff officers, two from here and one from Sivas. Vajid Pasha is the nominee of Abdullah Pasha, who, I am told, is first Aide-de-camp to His Majesty, and the two officers I have seen are young men about 25, who are evidently eager to distinguish themselves at any cost to the country. The Vali and the three senior officers here speak with undisguised bitterness and contempt of a Commission which corresponds over the heads of men capable of expressing opinions really worth having, direct with Abdullah Pasha, and which takes all the reports, which it sends to head-quarters at the dictation of Izzet Pasha of Sulimaniéh, who, in common with the above-mentioned Staff officers, has every interest in forcing on a collision with Persia, or, at least, in dragging the matter on for an indefinite time, with as many troops on the spot as he can induce the central Government to send.

The Imperial Commission is supported by eighteen battalions at least—eight from Bagdad, eight from Erzincian, and two which were already in the vilayet, while every effort is being made to bring the four reserve battalions called out two months ago up to their full complement. I hear on fairly good authority that seven more battalions are coming up from Bagdad, the Nizam battalions from the army corps, are, I have reason to believe, in spite of official assurance to the contrary, from 700 to 800 strong. There are only two batteries from the IVth Army Corps, and the whole force is under the command of Dagistanli Ahmed Pasha. Either the greatest secrecy is prescribed here in regard to the future, or the local authorities are really in ignorance of what the central Government intends to do. They are in either case, both civil and military, at their wits' end to keep pace with the calls on their exchequer and their men. The greatest confusion reigns among them. The General Commanding the IVth Army Corps troops has appealed in vain to both the VIth and his own head-quarters. The former repudiates all responsibility for troops not belonging to his corps, while the latter gives no answer at all. Only the Minister of War telegraphs daily urging that the men should be sent on at once. The rivers are in flood and the roads mere marshes. Eighty men were swept away and drowned while crossing the Zab a week ago.

The Vali, who has already earned the nickname of "Tahsildar," is squeezing money out of the population by every possible means; arrears are being collected, taxes levied in advance, and subscriptions demanded. The caravan route from Bagdad is closed, owing to the military press-gangs who are carrying off every beast of burden they meet. Ruin stares many owners in the face, for harvest time is not far off, and they cannot accompany their beasts to the frontier, which spells total loss and no remuneration.

I cannot tell how much the Vali really knows or how far he spoke the truth, when he told me that the whole affair was planned by certain individuals here and at Constantinople for their own ends, that the present concentration of troops, besides being an useless expense, was doing untold harm to the country, and that he very much regretted that it was probably not in his power to stem the tide of military aggressiveness which he feared was likely to carry the Palace with it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AVALON SHIPLEY.

P.S.—According to my latest information—

1. Hamza Agha is nephew, not brother, of Muhammad Agha Mamash; and he, not Muhammad Agha Piran, is head of the Mamash.

2. The Shikha are divided into two, one part inhabiting country between Tabreez and Saplah, the other country between Urmia and Van.

3. Of the four reserve battalions, three have gone to the frontier, and one stays at Kerkuk, while one line battalion remains here, so that the total number of troops on the frontier is seventeen Nizam and three Redif battalions.

A. S.

[15840]

No. 111.

*Question asked in the House of Commons, May 7, 1906.*

*Mr. Hart-Davies.*—To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that difficulties have arisen with regard to the establishment of a telegraph station at Bunder Abbas; and what steps it is proposed to take to settle the matter and secure the linking-up of Bunder Abbas by cable.



Answer.

Yes, sir. From the latest information at our disposal it appears that His Majesty's Resident at Bushire is hopeful of obtaining a satisfactory settlement.

[15691]

No. 112.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 8.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 30th April, relative to Urumia affairs.

*India Office, May 7, 1906.*

Inclosure in No. 112.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*India Office, April 30, 1906.*

URUMIA affairs. Telegram dated the 25th April, from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran. Instructions to act as suggested have been conveyed to Grant Duff and O'Connor.

[15861]

No. 113.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 9.)*

(No. 131. Secret.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, May 9, 1906.*

SUSPECTED German loan.

I am informed by a usually well-informed person that a loan of 25,000,000 marks is about to be made by Germany, under cover of Belgian financiers, to the Persian Government. The following are stated to be the conditions, and there are perhaps others:—

1. A coaling station on the Shatt-el-Arab estuary.
2. Concession for a road from Kermanshah to Khanikin.
3. A hospital and college in Tehran under German management.

M. Naus is said to have negotiated this Agreement at Constantinople. Further inquiry is being made here and at Bushire and Kermanshah.

The new German Minister, who arrives in the autumn, is said to have had much to do with the Bagdad Railway scheme while at Constantinople as German Consul-General. The present Minister leaves in a week, and, if there is any truth in the rumoured Agreement, will probably endeavour to get the matter settled before his departure.

I see, from the "Times," that the Hamburg-America Line intends to run steamers to the Persian Gulf, and the Germans have also appointed a Military Attaché to Tehran.

[14995]

No. 114.

*Foreign Office to India Office.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, May 9, 1906.*

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant regarding the Luristan Road, and to state that he concurs in Mr. Secretary Morley's opinion that it would be better not to move in the matter at the present time.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) E. GORST.

[16020]

No. 115.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 10.)*

(No. 132.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, May 10, 1906.*

PERSO-TURKISH frontier dispute.

I am informed by His Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez that reinforcements have arrived for the Turkish troops near Urmi. Last week some Turkish soldiers visited the latter town and beat a Persian subject.

[16097]

No. 116.

*Consul-General Sir W. Ward to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 11.)*

(No. 2.)

Sir,

*Hamburg, May 9, 1906.*

WITH further reference to Sir Eldon Gorst's despatch No. 2 of the 27th ultimo, and to my reply No. 1 of the 2nd instant, I have now the honour to report to you that the Hamburg-American Steam-ship Co. yesterday published a formal notice, stating that it intends inaugurating from and after the 1st August next a regular monthly service of steamers between Hamburg and ports of the Persian Gulf, and that these steamers, after leaving Hamburg, will call at Antwerp and Marseille, and will take cargo for Aden, Jibuti, Masrah, Dender Abbas, Singah, Bahrem, Bushire, and Bussorah.

It is evidently expected by the Directors of the Hamburg-American Steam-ship Co. that this service will contribute towards opening up a trade between Germany and Mesopotamia; and that a gradual impulse will be given thereby to the export trade from Germany to that part of the world of cotton goods, iron manufactures, and miscellaneous other articles of German industry, and, on the other hand, also to the import trade to Germany of the prominent products of the Euphrates Valley, such as wool, sesame seed, india-rubber, &c.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) WILLIAM WARD.

[16301]

No. 117.

*Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Spring-Rice.*

(No. 213.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, May 11, 1906.*

I REMINDED Count Benckendorff, in conversation to-day, that, since receiving the friendly message from Count Lamsdorff some weeks ago, indicating that proposals might be made by us for a definite agreement on matters of mutual interest, I had postponed the idea of our making any such proposals, owing to the change in progress in the Russian Government, and the latter's natural preoccupation with internal affairs. But within the last day or two a report had reached me that Persia was negotiating with Germany for a loan. I had originally told Count Benckendorff that, as regards Persia and other subjects of that kind, we would for the present do our utmost to preserve the *status quo* in order to keep the door open for a subsequent arrangement with Russia. But if the *status quo* was to be disturbed in the interval by third persons, it would make a future arrangement more and more difficult, and I had therefore thought it right to tell Count Benckendorff of the report which I had heard.

I said it was for the Russian Government to consider what steps they thought it in their interest to take. I held that it was wasting money to lend it to the present Persian Government. But I did think it very desirable to preserve the *status quo*. Possibly a joint loan by Russia and Great Britain might be worth considering as a temporary expedient, simply to preserve things as they were till we could settle the whole question; though I thought Russia, by conditions she had already made with Persia, might have grounds on which to object by herself to the Persian Government's contracting a loan.

Count Benckendorff asked me whether the information with regard to a German loan came from a source which made me believe it, and how it was being arranged.

I said the report had reached me in the barest possible form. A million was

[1617]

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named as the amount of the loan. But I was not sure even as to the amount, nor did I know through what channels it was being arranged, nor was I certain of the conditions which might be attached to it. I did, however, think that the report which had reached me might not be without foundation, but the Russian Government no doubt had means as good as ours for making their own inquiries.

There was another matter which it was necessary for me to mention.

The Bagdad Railway had not recently been brought before us officially in any way, but I gathered that it was likely to be revived. Questions were being asked me in the House of Commons, and from other indications I expected that we might soon have to give an answer as to whether we were prepared to participate. We were not prepared to participate in it unless France also did so, and we did not wish to go into it unless Russia as well would take part. The Bagdad Railway, if completed, would form an important commercial outlet. I knew very well the interest which such an outlet had always had for the Russian Government, and I realized that if this outlet was to be made on the Persian Gulf it was something in which they would naturally feel they ought to have some share. It was for them to consider, therefore, whether it would not be better, instead of attempting to block the project of the railway, which might be destined to be made nevertheless, that they should make up their minds as to the conditions and methods by which Russian interest might be brought into the scheme. All I had to say was that we would consider very favourably any suggestions of this kind which the Russian Government might have to make.

I told Count Benckendorff I did not wish this to be regarded as an official communication, because at present we were not being asked for any decision; but I foresaw that we might have to come to a decision before very long, and, as this too would be an alteration in the *status quo* in a part of the world in which we were both interested, I was anxious to take no step on our part without letting the Russian Government know, and it was very desirable that they should come to a decision as to what their own interest and policy in the matter should be.

Count Benckendorff told me that M. Cambon had already had conversations with him and M. Nélidoff on this subject.

I said I had spoken to M. Cambon some time ago, but my reason for mentioning it now was that the questions which were being asked me in Parliament made me think that the time when we might have to come to a decision was nearer than I had thought, and it was desirable that the Russian Government should also be prepared.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

[16234] No. 118.

*The Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company to Foreign Office.—(Received May 12.)*

3, Salter's Hall Court, Cannon Street, London,  
May 11, 1906.

Sir,

I AM directed by my Board to bring to your notice the following situation upon the River Karun:—

It will be well known to you that for some years past we have been doing our utmost to come to some agreement with a Persian called the Mouin-el-Tejar, who, we believe, holds a concession in connection with the navigation of the Upper Karun River. The Persian Government, however, have persistently refused, according to the Mouin, to allow him to come to any terms with us; and he has now purchased a steamer to ply on the Lower Karun, which is reported by our agents to be arriving in sections at Mohammerah. It is also his intention to put a steamer upon the Upper Karun to run in connection with this vessel and in opposition to the steamer "Shushan," the property of the Persian Government, which we run for that Government, and on which a considerable debt has collected which the Persian Government have not yet defrayed.

As the cargo available on the Karun is not yet sufficient at present rates of freight to make a single steamer pay, it is probable that the Mouin must either be relying upon financial assistance from his own or from a foreign Government, or on the undivided support of the local authorities and their ability to keep cargo away from the British steamers; possibly he relies upon the combination of both these factors.

The most powerful of these local authorities is the Arab Sheikh of Mohammerah, and the Persian Government have probably approached this potentate and endeavoured

to enlist his services in the interests of the Mouin. His man of affairs, the Rais-el-Tejar, has been asked by the Mouin to act as his agent. As the Rais has hitherto been assisting our operations, the request has placed him in an awkward position. Should he refuse to act as agent for the Mouin, another agent will be appointed, who will inform the Persian Government of the assistance rendered to us by the Rais, and therefore by the Sheikh; and the Persian Government will then come down upon the Sheikh. On the other hand, should he act as agent for the Mouin and do all he can in his interests, he forfeits the remuneration which he is at present receiving from us, and the Sheikh, his master, risks alienating British good-will.

Under these circumstances, the Sheikh and the Rais would prefer to keep in with both parties; to act as agent for the Mouin and at the same time to assist us, or profess to assist us. To this proposition we scarcely see that we can assent, and the question then resolves itself into whether the Sheikh should consider it more politic for him to stand in with us or with the Persians.

If it be the Persian Government only, and not any foreign Government, that is behind the Mouin, then there can be little doubt that if the Sheikh were to remain neutral and refuse to allow his man of affairs to act as agent for the Mouin or to assist us, the Mouin would very soon get tired of his enterprise. We submit that His Majesty's Consul on the spot should be instructed to urge upon the Sheikh the necessity of maintaining this neutral attitude, and not allowing his agent or anybody else connected with him either to act as agent for the Mouin or to give any assistance to the Persians which is not extended at the same time to us. His Majesty's Government probably recognize that in the present state of Persian affairs, relations of confidence between themselves and such semi-independent authorities as the Sheikh of Mohammerah are most desirable; and such relations ought to be the more easily maintained in that the Arab chiefs are not desirous of extending Persian influence within the regions subjected to their tribal sway. We have instructed our agent at Ahwaz to communicate in this matter with His Majesty's Consul at Mohammerah after the latter shall have received instructions from His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK BOTTOMLEY, *Secretary.*

[16276]

No. 119.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 12.)*

The Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 11th May, relative to the plague in Seistan.

*India Office, May 12, 1906.*

Inclosure in No. 119.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

May 11, 1906.

WE repeat, for your information, the following telegrams, dated the 4th instant, from Captain Macpherson regarding plague in Seistan:—

1. "Quarantine arrangements between Bandar and Turbat-i-Haidari will, it is being given out by Captain Iyas, who has recently arrived at Birjand, be in the hands of that officer."

2. "I have to report the recent occurrence of the three following incidents: Firstly, solely with the intention of exciting the populace against us, a sowar of the escort was falsely accused on the 22nd April of bringing a woman into the Consulate. Although beaten to extort an admission, the woman declined to confess. Secondly, on their way to cut khasil, our muleteers, who were following a thoroughfare that is well recognized and were not trespassing, were treated with abuse and threatened that they would be dealt with in the same way as our hospital if they came that way again. This took place on the 27th April. Lastly, wanton assault was yesterday committed upon three traders and their servant, a Persian subject. Fifty toman, the property of

the traders, who were collecting debts at Banjar, was stolen from the servant, who also received a severe beating.

"Reports of the above-mentioned cases have been made to the Deputy Governor, but it is improbable that any action will be taken by him. Further delay in exacting the punishment of the ringleaders of the original disturbance is much to be deprecated, as present position is most humiliating, and our prestige has suffered greatly. Incidents such as those described above are certain not only to continue but to become more frequent and of a graver character so long as the ringleaders remain unpunished."

Please refer to telegram dated 5th May, from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran to Sir E. Grey, with regard to the second of the above telegrams. His suggestion has our strong support, unless it is possible to induce the Russian Government to refrain from interference in the quarantine arrangements south of the Turbat-i-Haidari cordon. With respect to quarantine powers for English medical officer for Birjand, reference is invited to Mr. Grant Duff's telegram of the 5th May. Instructions to proceed as soon as possible to Birjand are being given to Captain Watson. As Grant Duff has proposed, we suggest that Watson should be given local Vice-Consular rank, seeing that it is reported from Meshed that recognition as Consul is to be accorded to Iyas. Alignment of Russian troops along frontier between Sarakhs and Dushakh and arrival of 100 Cossacks at Pulikhatun were also reported from Meshed on the 30th ultimo.

[16319]

No. 120.

*Mr. Spring-Rice to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 12.)*

(No. 89.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*St. Petersburg, May 12, 1906.*

GERMAN loan to Persia: referring to my telegram No. 88, of yesterday.

I am informed that Russian Government, though having no precise information, have heard that since his return from Constantinople M. Naus' policy has changed; that he had there frequent conversations with the German Ambassador, who, in exchange for various Concessions to Germany, proposed that a Persian loan should be raised in Berlin.

[16298]

No. 121.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 12.)*

(No. 133.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, May 12, 1906.*

FOLLOWING addressed to India:—

"Birjand quarantine.

"I have received a verbal message from the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, who is ill, stating that the Persian Government have no objection to the dispatch of a British doctor to Birjand, provided he be withdrawn on the termination of the epidemic, and the withdrawal of the Russian doctor."

[16323]

No. 122.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 13.)*

(No. 134.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, May 13, 1906.*

THE official servants of the Acting Governor of Kashan have, with the knowledge of their master, struck and insulted a warrant officer of the Royal Engineers in the service of the Indo-European Telegraph Department.

I have demanded that Acting Governor be dismissed, his servants punished, 100L paid as compensation, and apologies offered to the victim and to the Department for the invasion of their premises by Persian officials.

It is important that our telegraph officials, who are often in lonely places, should be protected, and I earnestly hope that I will be supported in exacting prompt satisfaction. I would again draw your attention to the fact that no punishments have

been inflicted for the assaults committed on Europeans in Persia during the last year and a-half.

I am informed by the Persian Government that an official is being sent to Kashan to deal with the case, but this will probably only have the usual perfunctory result.

[16324]

No. 123.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 13.)*

(No. 135.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, May 13, 1906.*

FOLLOWING addressed to India:—

Nearly two months after the event, and from an indirect source, I learn that a party of Indian sowars, proceeding from Bunder Abbas to their post at Kerman, were attacked on the 18th March, and all their belongings, including Government property, stolen. No report of this grave occurrence has reached me from His Majesty's Consulate-General at Bushire. If such matters are not reported at once to me, it is obviously impossible for me to be responsible for affairs in Persia. I therefore desire to draw your attention to this irregularity.

[16409]

No. 124.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 14.)*

(No. 97.)

Sir,

*Tehran, April 21, 1906.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 115 of to-day's date, I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Bushire regarding the proposed Luristan trade route.

In their telegram of the 20th instant, the Government of India express the opinion that the present is not a very suitable moment for taking up the question of the road seriously. I question, however, whether a more fitting opportunity is likely to arise in the near future. The Wali of Pusht-i-Kuk and the other Chiefs of that region, although nominally subject to the Shah, are in reality independent; nor would any change in the Central Government, so long as it were carried out by Persians, greatly affect the condition of affairs existing in the mountains of Luristan. Any negotiations which took place between His Majesty's Government and the Chiefs would in no way be assisted by the Persian Government, who have already shown that they are unable or unwilling adequately to punish an outrage on British officers in the Khoremmabad district in the autumn of 1904. The matter seems, therefore, to resolve itself into the question whether His Majesty's Government, after considering the political and commercial advantages offered by the proposed route, decide to spend a certain sum as an experiment, with a view to increasing British trade and influence in that part of Persia.

I have the honour to inclose a Memorandum and map by Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas, Military Attaché of this Legation, who thinks Captain Lorimer's proposal worthy of consideration, now that the alternative scheme for a direct road between Dizful and Khoremmabad has broken down. He is also of opinion that the political advantages resulting from our forming closer relations with the Wali of Pusht-i-Kuk and the Delfan Chief would justify the expenditure as estimated by Major Cox.

There are two points, however, on which it would be well to have more detailed information:—

1. Will the cost of the undertaking be as small as Major Cox appears to think?
2. Is the Wali of Pusht-i-Kuk able as well as willing to protect caravans as far as Dizful, especially from the raiding Arab tribes on the west of the route near that town (see annexed map).

If His Majesty's Government decide to consider the matter seriously, I would suggest that Captain Lorimer, who has considerable experience of these regions, be instructed to get into touch with the Wali and the Delfan Chief, and endeavour to obtain more precise information, especially as to the cost of the scheme and the real ability of these Chiefs to protect caravans.

1647]



I think it would be a mistake to enter into negotiations at all unless it is definitely decided to carry the proposal through.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 124.

*Major Cox to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 39.)

Sir,

*Bushire, March 18, 1906.*

IN continuation of this Office letter dated the 6th October, 1904, I have the honour to forward for your information a copy of a letter which I have addressed to the Government of India on the subject of the Dizful-Khoremmabad road.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) P. Z. COX.

Inclosure 2 in No. 124.

*Major Cox to Government of India.*

Sir,

*Bushire, March 18, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to refer to the correspondence on the subject of the opening up of a trade route through Luristan, ending with the Foreign Department letter, dated the 23rd March, 1905, to my address, and beg to submit a copy of a Report in connection therewith from His Majesty's Vice-Consul, Ahwaz, dated the 20th January, 1906.

Seeing that the position as regards the more direct Kialan route admits of no advancement at present, Captain Lorimer reverts to the alternative proposal for the selection of the more westerly route through the Pusht-i-Kuk and Delfan country. The protection of this route rests, it will be remembered, with—

1. The Wali of Pusht-i-Kuk in respect of the first half; and with
2. Nazar Ali Khan, Fath-i-Sultan, for the second half.

With the last-named Chief Captain Lorimer got in touch in May 1904, and they came to a provisional understanding. His endeavours to effect a meeting with the Wali of Pusht-i-Kuk were unfortunately interrupted by the events following on the attack on Colonel Douglas and himself, but in the meanwhile the Wali had indicated, by his letters and messages through third parties, that he is definitely prepared to further a scheme for a protected route through his territory, and in the next few weeks Captain Lorimer hopes to get into personal touch with him.

The object of the latter's present reference is to ascertain as definitely as may be possible under the circumstances the present views of the Government of India with regard to the promotion of this western route, and the extent to which they feel prepared to associate themselves with the direct financing of the scheme, there being good grounds to fear that the subsidized Road Transport Company will not, except under such pressure as the Government may be in a position to apply, bestir themselves or co-operate in the matter to any considerable extent.

In their letter to my address, dated the 28th September, the Government of India expressed their inability to make any definite pronouncement regarding this scheme without first consulting His Majesty's Legation, and without knowing more of the attitude of the Wali of Pusht-i-Kuk towards it.

The latter fact is now known to be favourable. The Wali has, in fact, made definite proposals which, though they seem somewhat prohibitive, will probably be found capable of considerable reduction.

In this latter connection I beg reference to the Preliminary Agreement come to with Fath-i-Sultan, detailed in Captain Lorimer's Report marginally noted. At that time the Fath-i-Sultan was prepared to supply mounted roadguards at 50 tomans per annum each, and considered that 30 would suffice for the protection of his section of the route. The Wali, on the other hand, tentatively suggests the necessity of the employment of 100 men for the portion of the road within his limits, and asks nearly double the salary—namely, 96 tomans per annum per man. To obtain a very approximate idea of the probable cost of policing the road, if we assume, as I think

we may, that 100 men in all will suffice for the whole of it, and if the rates offered by Fath-i-Sultan can be obtained from Wali also, the annual expenditure under this head would amount to 5,000 tomans or 12,500 rupees. To this sum would have to be added the cost of building and upkeep of two guard-houses, and one or two rough bridges, the cost of which it is difficult for me to give even an approximate estimate for at the present moment.

I fear these are not very satisfying premises for the formulation either of specific recommendations by myself or instructions by Government, but perhaps the Government of India may feel able to decide whether or not they can *prima facie* further the scheme under the circumstances suggested.

If they are so prepared, then I would suggest that I be permitted to inform Captain Lorimer accordingly, and to authorize him to discuss the subject from a business standpoint with the Wali, and then record in as complete a form as possible the draft terms of an Agreement on the basis of which the opening of the route to traffic could be considered practicable. Suggestions might be included as to how the whole or part of the cost of the inauguration and upkeep might be recovered from those using the road.

It would be explained to the Wali that the British Government were prepared to take the scheme into lively consideration with a view to its early inception, but necessarily require to examine in the first instance the details of the proposed terms before concluding any formal Agreement.

Once the terms which he is prepared to give have been thoroughly discussed between him and Captain Lorimer, the final conclusion of the Agreement could be put through with little further waste of time.

I regret that, owing to absence from head-quarters, I have been unable to study and submit this matter earlier; nevertheless, I venture to hope that before the Foreign Department leave Calcutta they will see their way to telegraph to me their decision—

1. As to whether I may authorize Captain Lorimer to discuss the scheme with the Wali of Pusht-i-Kuk on the lines suggested; and

2. As to the limit which must be placed upon the amount of annual expenditure to be incurred, in order to admit of the question of financing the scheme to be considered seriously by the Government of India.

A copy of this communication is being forwarded to His Majesty's Legation.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) P. Z. COX.

Inclosure 3 in No. 124.

*Captain Lorimer to Major Cox.*

Sir,

*Ahwaz, January 20, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to revert to the question of opening up a trade route through Luristan. I gather that officially matters stand where they did on my departure on leave in June last, as the only addition to the file is a copy of Government of India's letter of the 23rd March, 1905, with inclosures forwarded for your indorsement No. 758 of the 7th June, 1905.

Nothing has occurred to alter for the better the situation as regards the opening of the Kialan road, since I wrote on the subject on the 19th February, 1905.

I have again subsequently communicated my views on this subject in some detail in a letter addressed to the Foreign Office in London of the 17th October, 1905. In this letter I stated my opinion that the only practicable possibility, as matters at present stand, of throwing open a trade route between Dizful and Khoremmabad was to found in the scheme of the Semarra—i.e., the Pusht-i-Kuh-Dilfan route.

It is to this scheme that I would now again invite attention. I may recall to recollection that negotiations for the protection of the northern half of the route were tentatively carried through with the Fath-i-Sultan in May 1904. I am in possession of the documents signed by him then. I have also been repeatedly assured that the Fath-i-Sultan is still prepared to stand by these Agreements, and occasional letters I have received from him have always expressed a particular willingness to serve us.

The obstacle in the way of completing preliminary arrangements was for long the failure to get into touch with the Wali of Pusht-i-Kuk. This, however, was eventually removed by the arrival of a confidential agent, Saïd J'afar, on a mission to the Sirdar



Arfa. I made this man's acquaintance, and found him very friendly. He went off promising to have a favourable response sent me by the Wali. This arrived after my departure on leave, in the person of another special agent, one Kaïd Khani. He had business with the Sirdar Arfa, but was also specially commissioned and empowered to discuss the question of the road with me, and was the bearer of a very friendly missive from the Wali, as well as of renewed assurances of friendship from Saïd J'afar. Unfortunately our only representative at Nasiri at the time was my Persian Mriza, who professes himself much impressed by the urgency and cordiality of the Kaïd Khani. He succeeded in inducing him to commit to paper a rough outline of the Wali's proposals as regards the scheme.

These are, condensed, as follows:—

The Wali will be delighted to consent to and co-operate in the opening of the Semarra route.

One hundred sowars will be required, who will be entirely appropriated to this work. If supplied armed and mounted they would cost 8 tomans each per month. If we found them in arms and horses, 5 tomans each would be accepted.

It would be incumbent on us for purposes of security to erect at two stages small forts or serais.

Hope was held out that easier terms might be obtained by a personal interview. Throughout it has been repeatedly urged that I should pay a visit to the Wali this spring, and I shall certainly do my best to make an opportunity of accepting his invitation. Before meeting him, however, I should desire to have some definite ideas as to Government's views on the scheme, and in case it were decided to attempt to carry it through, roughly, what pecuniary limit would be imposed. It is important to avoid, as far as possible, entering into negotiations or even discussing proposals which are predestined to abandonment.

I should mention that no assistance, in my opinion, is to be looked for from Mr. Lynch. He spent a whole evening recently in proving to me (to his own satisfaction) that actual commerce in Persia was futile and of no consequence, and the only thing of importance was to secure the control of the trade routes and the forwarding of goods. This route being intended only as a temporary expedient, would offer only political and (not ?) commercial attractions.

It is unnecessary for me to reiterate the political arguments in its favour. But after the breakdown of the Kialan scheme, at least for the meantime, and our failure to re-establish our prestige by the coercion of the Direkwand, it is more than ever desirable that we should demonstrate to the Lurs that we do possess the energy and capacity to push through business affairs to a practical conclusion. I inclose translations of the letters of the Wali and Kaïd Khani.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) D. R. LORIMER.

Inclosure 4 in No. 124.

*Wali of Pusht-i-Kuk to Captain Lorimer.*

(Translation.)

[Received August 14, 1905.]

THE letter which you sent me by the Muin-ul-Ashraf, Saïd J'afar, has come to hand. I was rejoiced to hear of your well-being. In case you should care to hear, I am also in the enjoyment of good health.

In the course of your letter you have touched on the subject of arranging for caravans hereafter, using a route through Pusht-i-Kuk. The accomplishment of this project awaits only our meeting each other. In the cold weather, Inshallah, I shall be coming down to my winter quarters, if you will also come a meeting can be effected. I would then in person give undertakings in regard to this object. Please, therefore, keep me acquainted with the course of your affairs and ideas. There is no need to say more.

The Muqarrab-ul-Hasarat Kaïd Khani, the bearer of this letter, who is in my special confidence, is empowered to discuss details with you.

Inclosure 5 in No. 124.

*Kaïd Khani to Acting Vice-Consul Morton.*

(Translation.)

(After complimentary address.)

August 8, 1905.

I BEG to say first, I hope you are in perfect health. Concerning the opening of the Semarra route and the passage of caravans, according to the instructions of the Wali of Pusht-i-Kuk, I have to state that the Wali, for the sake of his own good name, and for the effecting of your Excellency's proposal, is prepared to take steps to throw open and secure the route in question. Certain conditions, however, in this connection would be necessary, with a view to preventing the possibility of any difficulties arising at any time between the two parties:—

1. Whereas certain Lur tribes and the Surkha and Bani Lam Arabs establish their winter quarters in the neighbourhood of the proposed route, 100 sowars armed and experienced would be necessary to guarantee its security, and these sowars should be at all times occupied in these duties, and, free from all preoccupation, would devote their attention to the protection of caravans and travellers, and would have no other work to do. These men would be paid 8 tomans each a month, if the Wali provides their rifles and horses; if the arms and horses were supplied by you, the rate would be 5 tomans a month.

2. Whereas in most of the stages and halting places of this tract there are no places of habitation, and it is a desert, it would be incumbent on you to construct two small forts or serais at the two halting places referred to (?), to put the escorts everywhere at their ease, and enable them to devote themselves to their duties.

3. The Wali will be coming down to his winter quarters in autumn. At that time you or a deputy should come and discuss the affair by word of mouth, and return again when some definite arrangement had been agreed upon, because by personal meeting increase of favour and the means of union and co-operation are to be looked for. This will suffice.

(Signed) KAID KHANI.

Inclosure 6 in No. 124.

*Memorandum by Colonel Douglas.*

AS there seems to be no chance under present circumstances of our being able to open up the direct road between Dizful and Khorenmabad, I think that Captain Lorimer's proposal is well worthy of consideration. The political advantages which we should gain by being brought into close and friendly relations with the Wali of Pusht-i-Kuk and the Delfan Chief would, in my opinion, justify the expenditure, which apparently would not much exceed 1,000l. a-year; and if the experiment proved successful, it would doubtless facilitate any attempt we may make in the future to open up the more direct road. As goods going to Khorenmabad from Ahwaz must now be sent via Isfahan, a journey of over a month, caravans would probably be willing to pay something for the use of the road, once they knew that it was safe. I presume that the Wali of Pusht-i-Kuk would guarantee the security of caravans right into Dizful, the latter part of the road being, I believe, liable to be raided by Arab tribes.

This route must, however, be looked upon as a temporary expedient, any permanent road, such as that contemplated in the Persian Transport Company's Concession, would naturally follow one of the more direct lines which I have shown in the rough sketch attached.

(Signed) J. A. DOUGLAS.

Inclosure 7 in No. 124.

*Sketch Map.*

[Not printed.]

[16412]

No. 125.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 14.)*

(No. 101. Confidential.)

Sir,

*Tehran, April 22, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith an interesting Memorandum by Mr. Churchill of a conversation with Sheikh Seif-ed-Din, a prominent Mollah, on the present political situation in Persia.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure in No. 125.

*Memorandum by Mr. Churchill.*

I CALLED on Sheikh Seif-ed-Din this evening, and had an interesting conversation with him on the political situation.

Seif-ed-Din is a descendant of Fath Ali Shah, and, like Haji Sheikh-ul-Reis, is at the same time an ecclesiastic. The Grand Vizier employs him in his confidential dealings with the clergy, and soon after taking office in 1903 sent him on a mission to Kerbela and Nejed to quell the "Olema," who were giving the Government trouble over the Amin-es-Sultan's Russian loan policy, which, he assured them, the new Government intended to discontinue. He was at Bagdad when Sir A. Hardinge visited Irak Arabi, and I concluded from his remarks this evening that Sir A. Hardinge was quite right in attributing the vexatious opposition he experienced in visiting the holy cities of Mesopotamia (as reported in his despatch No. 14 of the 30th December, 1903) to the intrigues of the Russians. Sheikh Seif-ed-Din described an interview which he had with the Mushir Pasha of Bagdad, who consulted him as to the best means of preventing the British Minister's proposed visit to the "Olema" at Nejed, with whom he was suspected of desiring to intrigue.

With regard to the present situation, and speaking of the clerical movement, he said it had been originated by personal motives, the Mujtehed Seyyed Abdullah being personally antagonistic to the present Grand Vizier, whose downfall and the return of his more liberal-handed predecessor, the Amin-es-Sultan, he desired to bring about principally in his own interests. Seyyed Mahommed, another prime mover among the Mujteheds in opposition to the Government, had other and less sordid motives, a real desire for reform being one of his objects. The exodus to Shah Abdul Azim in December 1905, as reported at the time, was the prelude to the subsequent development which occurred then. Other and more far-seeing people gave the clergy the idea of asking for a code of laws and other liberal institutions. Having asked for such reforms, the Mujteheds and their followers were now obliged to insist upon the fulfilment of the promise made by the Shah, though they realized that their own interests would eventually suffer, as their present method of obtaining a livelihood in a judicial capacity would be put to an end by the introduction of a code of laws.

The secular Delegates appointed by the Government to draw up the proposed laws could not get to work seriously without the help of the clergy, and a duel was in progress between the Grand Vizier and the Mujteheds as to the degree of participation of the latter in the undertaking. A great deal of discussion had taken place, but the Sheikh had little hope of any practical result for the near future.

With regard to the financial situation, the Sheikh spoke in gloomy terms. He knew that the British Government was no longer prepared to lend Persia money, and thought that some arrangement had been arrived at between the British and Russian Governments to put an end to the diplomatic competition between them at Tehran. He, however, expressed great distrust of Russia's sincerity, and assured me that if the Grand Vizier could offer Russia some political concession in the south, by which she could get a footing there, as she formerly had done in the Far East, any sum the Shah required would be forthcoming. Such an eventuality he professed to regard with great apprehension, as it would reduce the country's chances of ever regaining her independence, and he proposed to work hand in hand with us to avoid such a calamity to his country.

The Sheikh is undoubtedly influential both in Government and clerical circles, and

his co-operation in our interest may perhaps some day be desirable. I assured him of the desire of the British Government for the independence and prosperity of Persia, and thanked him for his offer of services, which I promised to report to you.

I do not think that he is entirely moved by selfish motives, though he will look to a *quid pro quo* in some form or other, if at any time we should employ him as anything more than a mere informant as at present.

(Signed) G. P. CHURCHILL.

*Tehran, April 14, 1906.*

[16413]

No. 126.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 14.)*

(No. 102.)

Sir,

*Tehran, April 22, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith correspondence, as marked in the margin,\* relating to the Kum-Sultanabad Road.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure in No. 126.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Mushir-ed-Dowleh.**April 2, 1906.*

THE Agent of the Transport Company (Limited), at Tehran did not fail to lay before his Directors the Report of the Mohandes-ul-Mamalik of October 1905, regarding the condition of the Kum-Sultanabad Road.

The Report in question lays stress on the following points:—

1. On certain stretches, viz., over 500 metres near Kum, over 3 miles near Rahgird, and 13 miles between Shabsaverun and Sultanabad, the roadway is stated to be not sufficiently wide to permit of two vehicles passing abreast.
2. At certain floodstreams no construction has been erected to protect the pack traffic from inconvenience or discomfort.
3. Over certain long stretches of the road gravelling of the surface has not been carried out.

As regards the first point referred to in the Mohandes-ul-Mamalik's Report I desire to offer the following observations: As regards the short narrow stretch of the road near Kum inclosed between garden walls and an irrigation stream, it has hitherto been impossible, owing to scarcity of water to tamper with that stream. It will, however, be set back and the stream thereby widened immediately this can be done without endangering the friendly relations of the Company with the Kum land-owners.

With respect to the stretch over 3 miles long near Rahgird, the Agent of the Transport Company points out that it runs through a rocky defile, and, owing to the configuration of the ground, a wide road would involve very heavy expenditure and could only be constructed with the greatest difficulty. The road is, however, not less than 12 feet wide and is wider at certain points.

As regards the 13-mile stretch from Shabsaverun in the direction of Sultanabad the roadway varies from 10 ft. to 23 ft. 8 in. M. de Brucq's statement that it is only 3.50 metres or 10 ft. 6 in. is inaccurate.

The Agent of the Company during an inspection of the road in November 1905, carefully measured the width at exact intervals of five minutes while driving from Aliabad ruined toll-house to beyond Katchan, these being the points between which the constructed road is narrow. The measurements are:—

Aliabad toll-house 14 ft., 15 ft., 15 ft. 6 in., 12 ft., 12 ft. 2 in., 20 ft. 10 in., 23 ft. 8 in., 22 ft. 8 in., 23 ft. 8 in., 17 ft. 8 in., 13 ft., 14 ft. 6 in., 17 ft., 13 ft., 16 ft. 8 in., 14 ft. 5 in.; Katchan 10 ft., 11 ft. 4 in., 12 ft.

With regard to the second point raised by the Mohandes-ul-Mamalik, I trust that your Excellency will agree with me that the absence of such construction is hardly of sufficient moment to withhold from the Company the permission to levy tolls as

\* Messrs. Lynch, March 29, 1906, not printed.

granted under their concession. The flood-streams crossing the Kum-Sultanabad Road are not important, and it would only be at the rarest intervals and then for a brief space of time that sufficient flood-waters could come down and so inconvenience the pack traffic. At the crossings the subsoil is hard and hitherto no complaints have been made by muleteers under this head. Moreover, on the Resht Road such flood-crossings without any necessary construction are to be met with and no hesitation was, I understand, shown on that account by the Persian Government in granting permission to the Russian concessionnaires to levy tolls.

With reference to the third objection mentioned by the Mohandes-ul-Mamalik I have the honour to state that when his Excellency inspected the road, the new surface work carried out by the Company's constructors had had no time to settle down and no rain had fallen on it. It was, therefore, in many parts necessarily loose. On examination it will be found that the surface of the road is in good condition.

I desire to draw your Excellency's attention to the fact that the monthly average of vehicles passing over the Kum-Sultanabad Road is only forty-five or about three every forty hours. The likelihood of two vehicles meeting just at the narrowest part of the narrow stretches is, therefore, clearly most remote, and there is no reason to anticipate any substantial increase in the vehicular traffic in the near future.

From accurate measurements it was found that the width of the roadway required for the careful passing of two of the widest kind of two-horse vehicles is between 12 feet and 13 feet, and for two four-horse vehicles 20 feet to 22 feet. Over almost the entire length of the three stretches named, it is, therefore, possible for two vehicles to pass each other, either by careful driving or by the detaching of one or two horses from each team, should the vehicles meet a particular narrow point. Further, in the Concession given to the Persian Transport Company no minimum width of roadway is specified.

In order that all doubt should be removed as to the present condition of the road, I have the honour to propose to your Excellency that the Persian Government should again appoint a competent engineer to inspect the Kum-Sultanabad section, and that on this occasion they should be accompanied not only by the representative of the Transport Company, but by the Military Attaché of His Majesty's Legation whose impartiality in the matter is clearly beyond question.

I am confident that the officials appointed by the Persian Government to undertake this duty will find, on inspection, that the road is now in a satisfactory condition and will bear favourable comparison with the Resht-Kudum section of the Resht Road which as late as October 1903, was in such a deplorable state that it was impassable in a carriage, and I had myself to ride from Resht to Imam Sadi Hashem, while tolls and much higher tolls than the Persian Transport Company propose to ask for were collected.

As a large sum of money has been expended by the Persian Transport Company on the road, it is naturally their desire as soon as possible to put in force their right under the concession to levy tolls, and I would, therefore, express the hope that your Excellency will be so good as to give the matter your early attention in order that a joint inspection of the work done may take place without delay.

[16414]

No. 127.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 14.)*

(No. 103.)

Sir,

*Tehran, April 23, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez, on the subject of the Perso-Turkish frontier dispute.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure in No. 127.

*Consul-General Wratislaw to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 20.)

Sir,

*Tabreez, April 15, 1906.*

WITH reference to my telegrams Nos. 21 and 22, on the subject of the entry of Turkish troops into Persian territory in the Urmi district, I have the honour to append an extract from a letter which I have received from the Rev. O. H. Parry, of the Archbishop of Canterbury's mission.

Mr. Parry writes:—"The frontier business seems to be getting serious. Of course our news is only reports, though from people in Tergawar. In the first place, thirty Nizams have come down to Mir Hajji Beg's village in Dasht, offering to make over all the Begzadé, and to make Mir Hajji Beg, Kaimakam, on condition that he first settles up his business with the British and American Governments. These men are said to be real Nizams (Turkish regulars), not Sheikh's men dressed up. Others have occupied Jerma, and are demanding back taxes. Others have come down to Jirmi on the Marlshu Pass, and have driven out the Customs people and beaten them. A letter has also been received by Bajan, offering either to take the Christians over, or to allow them to leave, or to protect them when fighting begins."

The Bajan referred to is the leading man of Mawana, a Christian village in Tergawar, adjoining Dasht.

Both the Governor and Karguzar of Tabreez profess to have no official information on this subject, but there is no doubt that an incursion from Turkish territory has taken place. The ejection and castigation of the Customs employés was confirmed by M. Lavers, the Chief of Customs here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

[16415]

No. 128.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 14.)*

(No. 104.)

Sir,

*Tehran, April 23, 1906.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 102 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to inclose a translation of a note from the Persian Government regarding the Seistan Water Award.

In reply to my note of the 5th ultimo, the Mushir-ed-Dowleh states that, in his note of the 9th November, 1902, the Persian Government only accepted the Arbitration Commission and final reference to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on the understanding that the Award or decision given should agree with the Goldsmid Award.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure in No. 128.

*Mushir-ed-Dowleh to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(Translation.)

*April 7, 1906.*

I HAVE received your note of the 8th ultimo, respecting Colonel MacMahon's Arbitral Award, and the objections raised in connection with it by the Persian Government. You state in your note that you have referred the matter to London, and now that the Persian Government objects to the Award, it is necessary that the matter should be referred to the arbitration of the British Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. According to the note addressed by the Persian Ministry for Foreign Affairs to the British Legation on the 9th November, 1902, the Persian Government accepted at the time Colonel MacMahon's arbitration or that of the British Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on condition that it should agree with General Sir F. Goldsmid's Award. It is obvious that the Persian Government will not refuse to accept any decision which will be in accordance with it.

[16417]

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[16416]

No. 129.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 14.)*

(No. 105.)

Sir,

*Tehran, April 23, 1906.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 100 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a translation of a note from the Mushir-ed-Dowleh regarding the proposed arrangement with the Persian Government in regard to the parcel post in the British post-offices in various Persian Gulf ports.

Lord Lansdowne's despatch No. 85 of the 17th June, 1905, was handed to M. Naus on the 18th July of last year, and, in spite of constant and urgent applications for a reply, an answer has only lately reached me.

You will see that the Persian Government do not refuse to accept the arrangement proposed in Lord Lansdowne's above despatch. They, however, point out that Persian subjects living in the south are obliged to stamp letters addressed to India with British Indian stamps, and that letters for India stamped with Persian stamps are forwarded via Enzeli, Russia, and Egypt. The Mushir-ed-Dowleh points out that the present arrangement inflicts loss on the Persian Exchequer and much inconvenience, and asks that letters addressed to India and furnished with Persian stamps should be accepted by the British post-offices in the southern Persian ports.

I do not know how far the arrangement of which the Mushir-ed-Dowleh complains is in accordance with the Articles of the Postal Union, but it appears to me that the Persian Government have a legitimate grievance.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure in No. 129.

*Mushir-ed-Dowleh to Mr. E. Grant Duff.**April 7, 1906.*

I HAVE seen the Memorandum you have handed to M. Priem, the Director of Customs and Posts, in connection with the parcels coming by the English post. I do not refuse to accept it and put it into execution, since I have not seen in it anything against the Postal Union now in force. I do not consider it superfluous to explain the present position of Persian post-offices in the ports of the Persian Gulf towards those of British India. The position is that the postal authorities of British India refuse to accept and carry letters bearing Persian stamps handed over to them by the Persian post. Under these circumstances, people living in those regions are obliged to have their letters stamped with English stamps, because if the letters bear Persian stamps they must be sent via Bushire, Isfahan, Tehran, Enzeli, Russia, and Egypt, and they have to traverse a distance six times greater than they ought to. Under this arrangement letters going to India from the ports of the Persian Gulf must bear Indian stamps, and this is a great loss to the Persian Government. This point must be considered. It is desirable that when the Parcel Post Agreement is put in force people should receive permission to stamp their letters with Persian stamps if they like, and at the same time the postal authorities of British India should be instructed to accept such letters from Persian Postmasters when they exchange the post, and deliver them to their destinations according to Article 1 of the Postal Union of 1897. I have no doubt you will consider the matter, and will communicate to me your opinion on the subject.

[16418]

No. 130.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 14.)*

(No. 107.)

Sir,

*Tehran, April 23, 1906.*

WITH reference to my telegrams Nos. 106 and 111 of the 15th and 19th instant, respectively, I have the honour to forward a copy of a despatch from Mr. Wratislaw, His Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez, regarding the arrival at that town of a

Russian Road Commission which has been appointed to inspect the Julfa-Tabreez road and to inquire into certain charges brought against M. Diduloff, the chief engineer, and M. Ginsberg, the principal contractor.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure in No. 130.

*Consul-General Wratislaw to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 11.)

Sir,

*Tabreez, March 14, 1906.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 14 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to report that M. Treskinski, a member of the Russian Road Commission, arrived here on the 9th instant with some of his subordinates. He is to commence an inspection of the road pending the arrival of his colleagues, who are now, it seems, at Hamadan. These are M. Patgoriski, a road inspector, and another gentleman whose name I have not been able to ascertain, and who is, I understand, the head of the Commission.

M. Treskinski will replace M. Diduloff, the chief engineer, who, along with M. Ginsberg, the head contractor, has been suspended and forbidden to leave Tabreez till the Commissioners have terminated their inquiry into the malpractices alleged against them.

The section of the road passing through the Dere Diz near Julfa has been reconstructed, and seems in good working order, though doubts are still entertained as to its ability to withstand a heavy flood. As far as Marend, about halfway between Julfa and Tabreez, the road is practically finished, but from Marend onwards it is far from complete.

Good progress is being made on the bridge over the Araxes at Julfa.

I can procure no confirmation of the alleged intention to continue the road forthwith towards Tehran, and I am inclined to think that nothing will be done in this direction for the present.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

[16419]

No. 131.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 14.)*

(No. 108. Confidential.)

Sir,

*Tehran, April 23, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of correspondence regarding the Perso-Afghan frontier.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 131.

*Major Sykes to Government of India.*

(No. 98. Confidential.)

Sir,

*Mesher, November 25, 1905.*

AMONG the questions to which I devoted especial attention during my recent tour to the Afghan frontier was that of Musabad.

2. I did not consider it politic to visit the actual frontier, but it seemed desirable to make indirect inquiries both as to the facts of the present state of affairs, and also as to the manner in which this *status quo* was regarded.

3. Captain Winter, who visited this neighbourhood in March 1904, reported that Musabad was in the possession of the Afghans, and Khushab Ayubi in Persian occupation.

Ali Jan Sultan, who is in command of the Karai sowars of Khaf, but who is himself a Timuri, informed the Attaché that in 1897 Muhamed Sadik Khan, who is referred to by Captain Winter, spent 1,000 tomans in clearing out a ruined Kanat



and in populating Musabad, but that two years later he was expelled by the Afghans, who posted six sowars there. He also stated that Khushab Ayubi, which is 4 or 5 miles due west of Musabad, was populated by himself, but that, owing to pillage by the Afghan sowars, he had recently been compelled to abandon the spot. He stated that there was no cultivation at Musabad, and that Ayubi has not been occupied by the Afghans.

4. The general attitude was that it was no use reporting the matter to Meshed, as no action followed. Consequently, there seems to be no immediate likelihood of this question being raised by the Persian Government.

5. I, however, would venture to express my opinion that, although the present is by no means an opportune occasion for raising the question, owing to the McMahon Mission having scarcely concluded its labours, yet, with the development of Russian influence and peaceful penetration in Khorassan, it would be desirable to demarcate the remaining section of the frontier—i.e., from Hashtatan to Siah Koh—within the next few years.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) P. M. SYKES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 131.

*Government of India to Major Sykes.*

Sir, *Fort William, February 7, 1906.*  
I AM directed to refer to your letter of the 25th November, 1905, regarding the Perso-Afghan frontier in the vicinity of Musabad.

2. The Government of India agree with you that the present is not an opportune occasion for proposing the demarcation of this section of the Perso-Afghan frontier. I am to request that you will keep a careful watch, and report in due course what the boundary of possession is.

3. It has already been pointed out that the undemarcated boundary shown in the map of Afghanistan from Hashtatan to Siah Koh is incorrect, as it includes in Persia a large tract of territory which is admittedly in Afghan possession. A copy of the correspondence should be furnished to His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Turbat-i-Haidri, who, as well as any other officers travelling in the vicinity, either on tour or on relief, should lose no opportunity of ascertaining the correct boundary between Siah Koh and the last boundary-pillar in Hashtatan.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. WOOD,  
*Secretary to the Government of India.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 131.

*Major Sykes to Government of India.*

Sir, *Meshed, March 16, 1906.*  
I HAVE the honour to attach copies of various correspondence relating to the Afghan frontier.

Chief in importance is a letter from M. Molitor, Director-General of Customs for Khorassan, which was written after two interviews with me.

M. Molitor and myself agree:—

(a.) That the present state of affairs is most undesirable.

(b.) That unless steps be taken to put an end to these constant murders reprisals will ensue.

M. Molitor, in the concluding portion of his letter, outlines a suggestion on the subject.

2. As to the present murder, I inclose a copy of the letter which I have written to the Governor of Herat on the subject, but I regard the case as an incident, which forms part of the wider question of our general position on the Afghan frontier and it is on this subject that I now purpose addressing the Government of India.

3. I would point out that for several years there has been no particular

development of our policy on this frontier, whereas the Russians have increased the number and strength of their garrisons along the Russo-Persian and Russo-Afghan frontiers and have spent enormous sums on strategical roads and railways. Apart from this, they have effected a masterly stroke by the organization of a quarantine cordon from Turshiz to a point beyond Karez. At the latter centre, as reported in my despatch of the 22nd November, 1905, they are in considerable strength, and at the present time are taking advantage of the epidemic in Seistan and the rumours of plague in Afghanistan to examine and generally to interfere with caravans coming from Afghanistan to Persia by that or by other routes. In short, Russia has never, to the best of my knowledge, evolved a cleverer or more successful scheme in Persia than this quarantine cordon, which is mainly supported at the expense of the Persian Government and is capable of considerable development, as the immediate future may prove. As a counterpoise to this the Consulate was founded at Turbat-i-Heideri, which has, so far as British subjects are concerned, checkmated the action of the Russians, but this Consulate, although it has generally strengthened our position in the districts of Turbat-i-Heideri, Turshiz, Khaf, and Barkharz, has not been accompanied by any permanent increase on the frontier, which is, after all, of very great importance.

4. To combat this weak point, I recommended in the letter referred to above—

(a.) That the pay of the British Agent at Karez should be increased;

(b.) That a hospital assistant should be stationed at Karez;

(c.) That the above, together with the Turcoman dak-sowars, should be housed in a suitable building; and

(d.) That the frontier should be visited frequently by the Consul at Turbat and occasionally by the Consul-General.

Moreover, as it is desirable to find out more exactly the present state of affairs prevailing on the Perso-Afghan frontier (*vide* my despatch of the 25th November, 1905), I am arranging to send a secret envoy to report on this question. I think that, at present at any rate, it is not desirable for British officers to visit the debateable area in person.

5. Since I wrote the above suggestions events have added force to my arguments, as not only have rumours of plague at Khaf and then at Turbat-i-Sheikh Jam been circulated with a view to the establishment of a second Russian cordon, but at the present time the Russian doctor at Karez is most active, and may at any moment cause infinite annoyance to trade between Herat and Meshed, and thereby prove the power of Russia to the Afghans. In fact, Russia is fighting us successfully with her array of doctors, just as she is driving British trade from Khorassan by means of her financial arms, aided by her geographical position.

6. Under these circumstances it behoves us, in addition to meeting the above attacks, to forge if possible a new weapon, and I make the following suggestion, although I am not able to feel sure that it is a practicable one, as I am ignorant of the present state of the relations between the Government of India and His Highness the Ameer.

Briefly, I would suggest that these frontier disputes should be settled at an annual meeting on the frontier at which a British official—generally His Majesty's Consul at Turbat—would be present, and which would be attended by representatives of the Governor of Herat and the Governor-General of Khorassan.

7. I claim that by this arrangement we should gain more influence with the Afghans; more knowledge of the frontier, which must some day be delimited; and, finally, these raids and murders would at any rate decrease in number, and might eventually cease.

I am well aware that infinite patience and tact would be required, and that at first little progress would be perceptible; but I am convinced that not only is the scheme feasible, if the Ameer agrees to it, but that its inception is imperatively called for. M. Molitor would support such a scheme most strongly, and its refusal by the Persian Government would place them in a difficult position.

8. Other aspects of the case are that the Belgian Administration would be constantly indebted to us, and this would in all probability insure the continuance of the present excellent relations which exist between this Consulate-General and the Customs. At the same time care would have to be exercised to prevent the Afghans from thinking that we were favouring the hated Customs officers, who should be represented by a Persian and not a European at these meetings.

9. With respect to the Russians, it has hitherto been our fate that a forward

movement should be made by them, to which we have had to reply as best we could. Instances of this are the quarantine cordon and the Meshed-Seistan telegraph line. If, however, my scheme were accepted there would be a change in this state of affairs, similar to that which Sir Arthur MacMahon effected in Seistan. That this is desirable, and that the present position of affairs is unsatisfactory and increasingly so, few can deny; whereas the scheme I propose is capable of considerable development.

10. Such a scheme should, in my opinion, be worked entirely by this Consulate-General, which alone is in touch with the Governor-General of Khorassan, the Governor of Herat, and the Director-General of Customs. Kain forms part of the Seistan Consular district, but as it is also a district of Khorassan, there would be no difficulty in dealing with the Shoukat-ul-Mulk, who naturally looks to Meshed, and is an old friend of mine. His Majesty's Consul, Seistan, would also, I think, agree with me on this question.

11. A copy of this letter is being sent to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, Tehran, and to His Majesty's Consul, Seistan.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) P. M. SYKES.

Inclosure 4 in No. 131.

*M. Molitor to Major Sykes.*

M. le Consul-Général, Meshed, le 8 Mars, 1906.

PAR télégramme en date du 13 Février, l'Administration Centrale des Douanes me prescrivait d'envoyer au Seistan tous les renseignements nécessaires au sujet de l'assassinat du Chef de la Douane de Yazdan et de l'enlèvement du fils de ce dernier, pour permettre au Consul Britannique de Seistan de rechercher les coupables.

J'ai répondu à notre Administration que, vu la présence à Meshed du Consul-Général Britannique, il serait beaucoup plus facile de traiter cette affaire ici, que le Consulat-Général est en communication constante avec le Gouverneur de Hérat. Cette circonstance nous permettrait d'obtenir beaucoup plus rapidement la libération du malheureux enfant que les meurtriers de Gholam Hussein ont enlevé.

Je profite de cette occasion, M. le Consul-Général, pour vous faire remarquer que voilà le troisième meurtre commis en huit mois par les Afghans sur notre personnel de la frontière. Les excuses que donnent les meurtriers en Afghanistan, que nos employés avaient avec eux des comptes de sang, ou bien que nos hommes avaient profité de leur position pour leur rançonner, ne peuvent être prises en considération.

1. Tout le monde sait combien la justice Persane punit sévèrement les meurtres, ce qui enlève toute possibilité de vendetta légitime à exercer;

2. Pour l'accusation d'exactions, vous vouliez bien, M. le Consul-Général, me rendre la justice de reconnaître que j'ai toujours pris les mesures les plus immédiates non seulement quand je recevais des plaintes, mais même quand je pensais qu'il pouvait y avoir des abus.

Dans ces conditions, des meurtres commis avec une si atroce barbarie sont profondément révoltants: ces actes peuvent avoir à cette frontière les conséquences les plus graves, car on ne peut espérer que les employés Persans vont continuer à se laisser massacrer sans protester. Néanmoins, j'ai donné les ordres les plus sévères à nos employés de ne se servir de leurs armes qu'à la toute dernière extrémité, et en tous cas de ne jamais se livrer à des représailles, quelques légitimes qu'elles puissent leur sembler.

En tous cas, je tiens à insister encore pour enlever tout semblant d'excuse aux assassinats, sur ce point que jamais une exaction d'un employé ne fut laissée impunie par notre Administration, et chaque fois qu'une plainte a été déposée par un Afghan, soit par voie diplomatique, soit directement, l'enquête la plus sévère a toujours été immédiatement ordonnée. Les nombreuses punitions et révocations d'employés à cette frontière, au plus léger soupçon, prouvent combien notre Administration a toujours tenu à son renom d'intégrité et la correction de ses employés.

En même temps que j'insiste sur le retour immédiat du fils de Gholam Hussein, qui est encore, paraît-il, prisonnier à Hérat, je crois devoir exprimer combien il serait à

désirer que l'on trouvât un *modus vivendi* qui, en assurant la punition des vols et meurtres à cette frontière, supprimerait rapidement ces habitudes, qui, au vingtième siècle, sont un pénible anachronisme.

Le Directeur-Général,  
(Signé) A. MOLITOR.

Inclosure 5 in No. 131.

*M. Molitor to Major Sykes.*

M. le Consul-Général, Meshed, le 10 Mars, 1906.

COMME complément à ma lettre du 8 Mars, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que les meurtriers connus de nous du Chef de Douane de Yazdan sont Mahomed Osman et ses deux frères, et Mahomed Yassin, tous de Ziaretgah.

En même temps que ma profonde reconnaissance pour l'intérêt que vous voulez bien déployer pour obtenir la punition du crime dont a été victime notre malheureux employé, je vous prie, &c.

Le Directeur-Général,  
(Signé) A. MOLITOR.

Inclosure 6 in No. 131.

*Major Sykes to Governor of Herat.*

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

[Undated.]

I AM sending you a copy of a letter which has been addressed to me by M. Molitor, Director-General of Customs, Khorassan. In the first case he was extremely angry, as this is the third murder of a Persian official on this frontier within the last three months, and he wished to stop all caravans from Afghanistan entering Persia. I, however, pointed out that I felt sure that you, on your part, equally regretted what had happened, and were taking action in the matter.

I have thus arranged with the Director-General to delay taking strong measures until I heard from you.

2. You will, I feel sure, appreciate the gravity of the situation, as, since this murder of a Persian official, seven Persians, servants of the Amir of Kain, are reported to have been murdered in the same locality when returning from Herat, and when they were still, in a sense, your guests.

3. The son of the murdered man has, I believe, been sent back to Persia, but, in case my information to this effect be incorrect, please send him to me at once. Mahomed Aslam, British Agent at Karez, will be instructed to receive the boy if sent to him. At the same time I have full confidence that you have kindly treated the boy, and have in no way treated him as a prisoner, as was the rumour at one time.

4. As to the murderers, whose names are given in the supplementary letter of the Director of Customs, kindly inform me what action you have taken, after inquiry, in punishing this murder, or what action you propose to take, as it is as disadvantageous for Afghanistan just as much as for Persia that these outrages should take place, and I think that you will agree that the action of the Director-General of Customs in restraining his officials is most praiseworthy, as Khorassan is full of Afghans who could be seized as hostages, whereas there are very few Persian subjects in Afghanistan.

5. In conclusion, I hope that for the sake of justice, and also for the interests of Afghan-Persian trade and friendly relations, you will take strong action in this case and punish the guilty with stern retribution; and I hope that you will reply to me quickly on this subject, as any delay will increase the gravity of the situation.

(Signed) P. M. SYKES.

[16421]

No. 132.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 14.)*

(No. 110.)

Sir,

*Tehran, April 23, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez, recording a conversation with the Imam Jume'h of that town regarding political affairs in Persia.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure in No. 132.

*Consul-General Wratislaw to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 17.)

Sir,

*Tabreez, March 28, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to report that yesterday I had an interview with the Imam Jume'h of Tabreez, during the course of which his Reverence, in reply to my request for news from Tehran, informed me that the public were waiting to see if the Shah intended to execute the promises he recently made concerning the dismissal of M. Naus and other points, but that the forces which had extorted the promises still held together, and would insist on exact performance. It was evident from the Imam Jume'h's remarks that he was at one with his Tehran colleagues in the matter.

The Mujtehed indulged in some very frank criticisms of the Shah, who, he said, was ruining his country. The Valiahd, when he came to the throne, would, the Imam Jume'h was confident, prove himself a much more capable Ruler, and would himself govern, and not hand over the conduct of affairs to such an incapable and unpatriotic clique as that which now held sway at Tehran.

The Imam Jume'h was, as usual, very bitter on the subject of Russian encroachments, but he seemed hopeful that a stand would be made against them before long, and that, even if it were impossible to take the Julfa-Tabreez road out of Russian hands, any further public works in Azerbaijan would be carried out by natives.

He said that the Valiahd was altering his opinions; that His Imperial Highness was very well disposed towards me personally, but that he required careful handling for a time.

Turning to the subject of the Urmi Mujtehed, he expressed his gratitude for the settlement of the case, and assured me that Mirza Hussein Agha would give no trouble in the future, and that he himself would be guarantee for his Urmi colleague's good behaviour.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

[16422]

No. 133.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 14.)*

(No. 111.)

Sir,

*Tehran, April 23, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez on the subject of His Imperial Highness the Valiahd.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure in No. 133.

*Consul-General Wratislaw to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 13.)

Sir,

*Tabreez, March 21, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to report that since my return from Urmi I have noticed a marked increase in the cordiality of the Valiahd towards me. Hitherto in the rare interviews I have had with him (owing to His Imperial Highness' and my own absences from Tabreez we have resided in the town for barely seven months altogether) his manner, though polite, has been always marked by a certain restraint bordering on nervousness, which those of my colleagues with whom I have compared notes tell me is usual with him. As soon, however, as I returned to Tabreez three weeks ago, the Valiahd intimated that he wished to see me directly the first ten days of Muharram had been got through, and in the audience he gave me on the 8th instant he manifested not the slightest stiffness, but conversed with a cordiality which was as agreeable as it was surprising, considering how we have come into conflict over the questions of Majid-es-Saltaneh and Mirza Hussein Agha. At the conclusion of the interview His Imperial Highness invited me to a day's shooting with him at an early date on his preserves at Baba Baghi, near Tabreez.

On the day first fixed a heavy fall of snow rendered the expedition impossible, but on the afternoon of the 18th instant I went to Baba Baghi on the Valiahd's renewed invitation, and passed the night there as His Imperial Highness' guest.

I reached the village before the Prince, who, on his arrival, was so kind as to ride up to my lodging to inquire whether I had all I wanted.

Next day the weather was again too bad for shooting, and while waiting for it to clear I had a conversation with His Imperial Highness, which lasted more than an hour. After touching on the usual sporting topics, the Valiahd spoke to me with remarkable frankness of the various difficulties of his administration, such as the Turkish frontier question and the insubordination of the nomad tribes in the Ardebil district, and he further mentioned that the constant increase of Russian subjects residing in Azerbaijan had added greatly to his anxieties. He also informed me that he had been much struck by the bearing of the Indian sowars both here and at Tehran, and that he had determined to clothe his bodyguard in uniforms resembling theirs. He had already, he said, ordered khaki cloth, puttees, and turbans for the purpose.

As the weather continued unfavourable he asked me to remain another night, in the hope that circumstances might be more propitious on the morrow; but shortly afterwards he received a telegram from the Shah ordering him to the telegraph-office to receive a communication concerning the Boundary Commission, and was compelled to return to Tabreez, first informing me that he would fix another date for our shoot as soon as Nowruz was over. Yesterday he sent me an express rifle as a present.

I cannot venture to predict the probable duration of His Imperial Highness' sudden manifestation of favour, nor do I quite understand the causes which have led to it. There seems, however, no reason to doubt that he is at present well disposed, and this is recognized by others as well as myself, as the following circumstance shows: When Imam Kuli Mirza was leaving Urmi, I asked him whether he would like me to speak to the Valiahd on his behalf, but he declined the offer, thinking that my intervention might do more harm than good. A few days ago he called on me to say good-bye, and said that he would now be much obliged if I would put in a good word for him, as the Valiahd seemed changed. I forgot to mention that the Valiahd told me at Baba Baghi that Imam Kuli Mirza had offended him by endeavouring to get out of going to Ardebil as Governor when ordered there, and that in consequence he would be left without employment for a time. As the Valiahd knew that Imam Kuli Mirza was a friend of mine, the natural course from a Persian point of view would have been to speak kindly of him and invent excuses for his dismissal, so the frank statement of His Imperial Highness' annoyance seems rather a sign of sincerity.

The Valiahd has not broached the subject of the Labaree case, but his private physician, Logman-el-Memalik, told me, presumably by order, that His Imperial Highness was extremely worried over it, and most anxious to terminate this most unsatisfactory business. I replied that no one could be more desirous of seeing the last of it than myself, but unfortunately the matter was entirely in the hands of the American Minister, and no suggestions I could offer had any weight with him.

I gathered from the Logman that the Valiahd's view was that after such substantial blood money had been paid and accepted it was unfair to press him to effect the

[1617]

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exemplary chastisement of the men accused of the murder, particularly in view of the critical state of affairs on the frontier and the very strong position of the Kurds.

I devoutly hope that I shall not be called on to compromise my relations with the Valiahd by further interference in a purely American affair, particularly when there seems no prospect whatever of such interference leading to a satisfactory result, unless the United States' Minister modifies considerably his present uncompromising attitude.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

[16423]

No. 134.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 14.)*

(No. 112.)

Sir,

Tehran, April 24, 1906.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 80 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to forward copies of further correspondence regarding the Urmi case.

You will see that the United States' Minister emphatically declines to encourage the American missionaries at Urmi in the proposal to allow the Kurds implicated in the Labaree murder to take "bast" with them.

I fear that Mr. Pearson's letter of the 5th instant to the Rev. W. Shedd can only increase the very strained relations existing between that gentleman and the American Presbyterian Mission in Persia.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure in No. 134.

*Consul-General Wratislaw to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 10.)

Sir,

Tabreez, March 14, 1906.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 13 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to report that I have every confidence that my informant, who is in a position to know, told me the truth in asserting that the Valiahd is endeavouring to persuade the Kurds accused of participating in the murder of Mr. Labaree to take "bast" in the American Mission at Urmi. Besides this, the Karguzar of Tabreez has asked me how such a step would be regarded by the United States' Government, intimating at the same time that, in his opinion, it was the only way of terminating this affair. Not having at the time received your telegram of the 10th instant, containing Mr. Pearson's statement that the United States' Government "would make no objection," I replied that I had no information on this particular point, but that, to the best of my knowledge, the United States' Government insisted on the exemplary punishment of the criminals.

If left to themselves, the American missionaries would probably be glad to embrace even so tame a solution to a situation which is almost intolerable. For two whole years they have been cut off from their work in the district to the west of Urmi, which is a forbidden land to them so long as their differences with the Begzadeh are unsettled. The United States' Legation has hitherto vetoed any suggestion for a compromise, on the ground that the murder of a United States' citizen must not pass without severe punishment, but there seems no reason to hope that such punishment is any more within the bounds of probability at the present time than it was two years ago; indeed, I should imagine that it is less so. The British missionaries are in the same predicament as their American colleagues.

Another point which must not be lost sight of is the extreme improbability of our being able to bring forward sufficient evidence to secure a conviction, even should the Kurds eventually surrender or be captured, unless the Persian Government makes a complete *volte face* and shows itself as anxious to punish them as it has hitherto been anxious to shield them. To have the charge "not proven" would be a far worse fiasco than to pardon the offenders. I do not think it probable that the Kurds would follow the Valiahd's advice unless they received some assurance from the missionaries themselves that the latter would discharge the usual obligation of persons receiving bastees. Should such assurance be given, I have little doubt that the accused

would take asylum at the American Mission and sue for pardon. Should they do so without the previous consent of the missionaries, the latter would have to see them through, as it would be contrary to all custom to give up bastees for unconditional punishment, and to do so would expose the missionaries to almost inevitable reprisals.

For this reason the scheme should be nipped in the bud, in order to avoid further complications, unless the United States' Minister is serious (which the tone of his message gives me reason to doubt) in stating that the United States' Government would make no objection.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

[Other Inclosures are not printed.]

[16424]

No. 135.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 14.)*

(No. 113. Confidential.)

Sir,

Tehran, April 24, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Douglas, Military Attaché of His Majesty's Legation, recording a conversation with the Turkish Military Attaché regarding the Turco-Persian frontier dispute.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure in No. 135.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 27.)

Sir,

Tehran, April 24, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that yesterday I had a long conversation with the Military Attaché to the Turkish Embassy on the subject of the frontier dispute. It appears that a force of Turkish troops, consisting of two regiments of infantry, two regiments of cavalry, and a battery of artillery, making a total of about 8,000 men, under the command of Brigadier-General Izzet Pasha, is now in occupation of the whole of the Lahijan district, with their head-quarters at Peswa,\* a fortified village about 24 miles west of Suj Bulak; that Lahijan has been proclaimed a "sanjak" of Suleimanieh, and that a Turkish Kaïmakam has been appointed to it.

On my asking the motives which prompted this action, Jemil Bey told me that the official view of his Government was that this is Turkish territory, and that the Persian Customs officials having last year raised the question of the frontier, they had found it necessary to protect their interests by sending troops there.

The Sublime Porte, he said, did not consider that the question was one that admitted of any discussion, and their Ambassador here, in accordance with instructions, had within the last few days addressed an official note in the above sense to the Persian Government.

I pointed out that Peswa was to the east of the disputed territory, as shown in the map of the Mixed Commission of 1849-55, and that the Turks could not substantiate any claim to it, which he practically admitted, and he gave me as his opinion that the real cause of the Turkish action is the persistent refusal of the Persian Government to settle any cases, or to pay any attention to diplomatic representations on the part of the Ambassador here, till finally the Sultan had lost patience and taken this step.

It seems evident that the Turks have no intention of withdrawing their troops, or even of discussing the question further, and therefore, unless some other Power intervenes, the Persians have no alternative but either to acquiesce in the situation, or to expel the intruders by force. It is difficult to believe that in the present state of the Persian army and the finances of the country they will be so foolish as to adopt the latter course, which could not fail to end in complete disaster, and might well entail a further loss of territory.

\* Passova.



I may add that the usual summer camp outside Tehran is this year to be held some two months earlier than usual, and will consist of seven or eight "fauj" from the districts of Kazvin and Irak, portions of four of which have already arrived. My colleague appeared to think that the change of date had some connection with the frontier dispute, which it may have in so far that this question has brought prominently to the notice of the Shah and his advisers the serious shortcomings of the armed forces of the country. The management of the camp has been intrusted to the Nasr-es-Saltaneh, much to the disgust, I understand, of His Imperial Highness the Minister for War, who has consequently left Tehran on a pilgrimage to Kum.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. A. DOUGLAS, Lieutenant-Colonel,  
Military Attaché.

[16425]

No. 136.

Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 14.)

(No. 114. Secret.)

Sir,

Tehran, April 24, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to report that, after an absence of nearly seven months, M. J. Naus the Minister of Customs and Posts, returned last Friday to Tehran.

His Excellency paid me a long visit yesterday. I inquired what had been the result of his negotiations with the Turkish Government with regard to the Treaty of Commerce. He replied that the Treaty had been drawn up, but that, up to the present, the Sultan had refused to ratify it.

His Excellency went on to say that he had been much struck on his return to Persia by the change for the worse. The whole country was in a most deplorable condition: there was no money; discontent and opposition to the Government were everywhere rampant; there was plague in Seistan; and a dispute was in progress with Turkey, the consequences of which it was impossible to foresee.

His Excellency then made a very startling statement. He said that he was convinced that the Grand Vizier was plotting against the Shah, and intended to make an attempt to place the Shoa-es-Saltaneh on the throne. I inquired whether his Excellency had any positive information concerning his suspicions. He gave an evasive answer, adding, "He (the Grand Vizier) murdered the Vazir-i-Durbar, and is quite capable of putting the Shah out of the way if it suits his purpose."

I have at present received no information tending to confirm M. Naus' suspicions, but his Excellency is no doubt well posted in what goes on at Court, and I repeat his statements for what they are worth. If there were a Palace revolution here I presume that His Majesty's Government would support the Valiahd.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

[16428]

No. 137.

Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 14.)

(No. 117.)

Sir,

Tehran, April 25, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of two despatches\* addressed to the Government of India by His Majesty's Consul in Seistan regarding the recent riots at Nasrabad (Seistan).

I also inclose copy of a note to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, informing his Excellency of the names, as far as they have at present been ascertained, of the ringleaders in the disturbances.

I have made it quite clear to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh that it is the duty of the Persian Government and not of His Majesty's Consul in Seistan to discover and punish the persons instigating and concerned in the riot, and that my furnishing the names, as far as they are known to us, is a mere act of courtesy.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

\* Later despatch not printed.

Inclosure 1 in No. 137.

Consul Macpherson to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Seistan, March 29, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a Report on the riots in Seistan, of the occurrence of which you have been previously advised by my telegrams of the 27th and 28th March respectively.

2. On the 26th March the huts for the reception of plague cases from the city were completed, and arrangements were made with M. Cattersel that Hospital Assistant Shaik Ahmad, with the Malik-ul-Hakuma, should proceed to the city on the morning of the 27th and endeavour to induce the relatives of the sick to allow of their removal to hospital. At 1:30 P.M., Hospital Assistant Shaik Ahmad brought a message from M. Cattersel to the effect that he himself would accompany the two native doctors, that he had written a letter to M. Zaplotynsky asking him to be present, and that he also desired Captain Kelly's presence.

I immediately proceeded to the Customs office, accompanied by Captain Kelly, and pointed out the inadvisability of allowing Europeans to assist on this occasion, as the people would probably be excited, and would in all probability resent the presence of Europeans, that it was absolutely necessary that no display of force be made, if it was desired that the people should have confidence in the hospital, otherwise subsequent cases would be concealed, and that the chance of a disturbance would be reduced to a minimum if the removal were carried out entirely by the native doctors. M. Cattersel finally agreed, and Hospital Assistant Shaik Ahmad was instructed to co-operate with the Persian doctor, and commence removing the sick on the following morning.

3. On the morning of the 27th two cases of plague were brought to the hospital, the relatives being quite willing that they should be treated there, but the third house which was visited contained a female patient whose relatives objected to her removal. Shaik Ahmad endeavoured to persuade them, but as they remained firm he desisted, and left the case. Mirza Sadik Khan, of the Customs Department, however, declined to leave the case, and endeavoured to remove the woman by force. Shaik Ahmad then, leaving the vicinity, went to the house of the Persian doctor, and very shortly afterwards an excited crowd collected in front of this house. He and the Malik spoke to the people, and told them if they had any grievance, that they should proceed to the Customs office.\*

4. About this time news of a disturbance in the city reached the Consulate, and I saw Shaik Ahmad, accompanied by a large crowd, leave the gate of the city. Shaik Ahmad and the better dressed people in the mob proceeded to the Customs office, while the remainder, in all about 250 persons, came in the direction of the plague huts, which are situated about 150 yards from the Consulate Hospital. I at once gave orders for the escort to fall in, and, accompanied by Captain Kelly, proceeded to the Consulate Hospital, which, owing to its proximity to the plague huts, would probably invite the attention of the mob, and as it is outside the high wall surrounding the Consulate there was nothing to prevent the people entering and destroying the place. On arriving at the hospital I spoke to one of the rioters, and he informed me that the people had no cause of complaint against the Consulate, but that they objected to their sick being removed to the Plague Hospital, and to their women being examined; he also stated that a corpse of a Mahomedan had been burnt that day by the Customs officers.

5. By this time the main crowd of the rioters had destroyed the plague huts, and were returning to the city, the road passing in front of the Consulate Hospital. They appeared to be very excited, and as soon as they saw Captain Kelly and myself they commenced to shout, wave their sticks, and throw lumps of hardened mud in our direction; the people who were close to us appeared to be better disposed, and endeavoured to prevent this hostile demonstration, but their efforts were futile, and the rioters came on with a rush. We withdrew inside the Consulate wall, and while doing so I was struck on the arm, Captain Kelly was struck on the shoulder, Jemadar Fazal Rahaman was struck on the arm, as was also the compounder of the hospital. The crowd then entered the hospital and destroyed most of the furniture and all the medicines which happened to be on the shelves. They also endeavoured to burst in the door leading to the Consulate grounds, and one man climbed partly over the wall. He was warned that if he came any farther he would be shot, and a pistol was discharged over his head, whereupon he retired, and the crowd withdrew.

\* Vide Shaik Ahmad's Report, attached.

[1647]

2 F

6. When passing the main entrance to the Consulate, on their way back to the city, the crowd halted and threw stones at the gate, but they did not attempt to climb the walls at this place; they then proceeded towards the Customs office, and as Hospital Assistant Shaik Ahmad was last seen going in that direction I went there with the escort. On the way we passed through the mob, some of whom were well-disposed, and cleared a way for us, but others in the background threw pieces of brick and sticks in our direction, none of which, however, did any harm. On arriving at the Customs office I found that the Russian Consul with a party of Cossacks had already arrived there, and they had not been in any way molested by the crowd. Shaik Ahmad was also here, and he had suffered no ill-treatment, but Mirza Sadik Khan had been badly beaten, and his clothes had been torn off by the mob.

Both M. Nekrassof and M. Cattersel were convinced that the riot was caused by the Persian doctor and the telegraph master, and while discussing the event a letter was received by M. Nekrassof. He informed us that it contained news that emissaries had been sent to Bunjar, and that the people of Bunjar were coming in to attack the Russian Consulate.

7. I then returned to the Consulate, taking Shaik Ahmad with me, and proceeded to put the place in a state of defence. There were in all fifteen men of the escort and four British officers available, about twenty Afghans, who happened to be in the city, also came and offered their services. These men were divided up and posted to different positions, a few being armed with spare rifles and shot guns belonging to the officers, and the remainder were supplied with sticks. The gates were strengthened, but the perimeter of the Consulate is so extensive that it would not have been possible to hold the outer wall if the place were attacked in force.

The people remained in a very excited state all day, and a Majilis was held which lasted well on into the night; they were all sworn on the Koran that they would join forces with the inhabitants of the surrounding towns and attack the Customs office in the morning, as the ill-feeling appears to be principally directed against the Belgian officers.

8. The inhabitants of the Consulate remained on the alert all night, but no disturbance took place. Early in the morning a letter was received from the Deputy-Governor, in reply to one which I had previously written him warning him of his responsibilities. He informed me that he had sent men to Bunjar and to the surrounding towns, and that he hoped he would be able to prevent a renewal of the disturbances.

9. On the 28th the people remained in a very excited condition, and I heard that rumours were being spread to the effect that a corpse had been exhumed by the Customs Department, and that the medicines which had been given to the people had poisoned them. I also heard that some of the people object to being treated by Shaik Ahmad.

In the afternoon the Deputy-Governor paid me a visit, and after expressing his regret at the occurrences of yesterday, he inspected the wrecked hospital; but although he was willing to admit that the attack was entirely unprovoked, he stated that he did not think it advisable to arrest the ringleaders at present, as he had not sufficient force at his disposal to cope with an extensive riot, involving the surrounding towns; he promised, however, to collect his men, and when he has a force sufficiently strong to punish the leaders.

10. Strong parties were again posted at the different gates during the night, and the Consulate remained in a state of siege.

11. On the 29th, as the plague is spreading rapidly, the Mullahs decided to sacrifice a goat, and this animal was accordingly led round the city, accompanied by a large crowd with a band and some banners. They were not actively hostile, although they passed close to the Consulate.

12. Towards midday a mob was observed approaching from the direction of Bunjar; they were met by the Mustofi, whom at first they treated with contempt, but he was backed up by some of the Mullahs, who persuaded the Syeds to depute a small number of their leading men to go into the city and lay their grievances before the Deputy-Governor.

13. The Mustofi subsequently came and reported to me that the grievances of the Bunjaris were as follows:—

(1.) That Sultan Mahomed, a British trader, who had given religious abuse on the day of the riot, was to be expelled the country or handed over to them for punishment.

(2.) That Sadik Khan, the Customs Mirza, and Hospital Assistant Shaik Ahmad

had stripped and examined women at Daudi, and had burnt a Koran amongst the effects of an infected person.

(3.) That the Belgians should be prohibited from any interference in plague work, which the people would carry out themselves.

(4.) That the practice of Seistanis being employed as news-writers by the Russians and British was to be prohibited.

(5.) That a written agreement was to be taken that none of the rioters of the first day were to be punished.

13. The Mustofi, after assuring me that we had nothing to fear, as the people were really excited only against the Belgians—the attack on our hospital having been an unpremeditated act, subsequently much regretted by the people—rejoined the Deputy-Governor at the telegraph office.

14. During the course of the afternoon the crowds gradually dispersed, and by evening all seemed quiet.

15. I should have mentioned that on the first day after the attack on the hospital, and when our position seemed critical, as emissaries had then been sent to all the surrounding villages to stir up the people, and there was every probability of a general rising, I sent an urgent message to Mr. Hughes, A.D.S.P., at Robat requesting him to bring up with the least possible delay the reserve of levies at that post to reinforce the Consulate guard.

I ventured to take the above responsibility on myself, as a delay of at least three days would have occurred had I first telegraphed for sanction to His Majesty's Minister at Tehran, and at least six days in the event of a reference being made to the Government of India. Owing to two sowars of the Consulate escort having accompanied Captain Keyes, and two more being on duty at Lutak in charge of the grain depôt there, while a fifth was sick, only one Jemadar and fourteen men remained at my disposal here with a total of less than 4,000 rounds of ammunition, and this force was altogether inadequate for the situation which then threatened.

I trust therefore that my action, which seemed a most necessary and justifiable precaution to take, will not meet with disapproval.

16. With reference to the allusions in my telegrams regarding the Russians being the real instigators of the riot, a number of facts pointing to this conclusion have come to my notice, but as I do not wish to delay this Report, and as the post is about to leave, this matter will be made the subject of a separate report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. D. MACPIERSON, Captain,  
His Britannic Majesty's Consul for Seistan and Kain.

Inclosure 2 in No. 137.

*Hospital Assistant Shaik Ahmad's Statement.*

ON the morning of the 27th March, the day on which the disturbances took place, by order of the Sanitary Commission I went to the city with Sadik Khan (the Customs' Mirza) to try to induce certain persons who were ill of the plague, and their relatives, &c., to leave their homes and go into a small segregation camp which had been erected for them near the British Consulate Hospital. We induced some six persons to go to the segregation camp (one of whom was actually ill of the plague) without much difficulty and without any opposition. I then suggested to Sadik Khan that we should visit the Persian doctor, and ask him to co-operate with us; he, however, wished to see one other plague case first, and we accordingly did so. This case was that of a woman sick of the plague, but unwilling to leave her home, and her son (a young man about 22 years of age) coming in shortly after our arrival also refused to let her go. Sadik Khan pressed her, and seemed ready to resort to force if she persisted in her refusal. In view of my instructions, which forbade me to even approach anything in the nature of compulsory measures, I did not feel justified in pressing the woman further, and, leaving Sadik Khan with the woman, went to the house of the Persian doctor which was close by. When I left no people had collected, and the only persons in the house were Sadik Khan, the ill woman, one son aged about 22 years, two younger sons, and one other man. Sadik Khan and the elder son were arguing somewhat acrimoniously. I found the Persian doctor in, and remained with him talking and smoking for about one hour, we then heard a hubbub outside, and the servants informed us that a disorderly crowd had

collected with grievances concerning the measures taken to suppress the plague. The Persian doctor instructed them to admit one or two of the leading men, who could act as spokesmen; several were admitted.

They stated that the disease in the city was not plague, but was some other epidemic to which they were periodically susceptible, and in any case they objected to force being used to compel them to leave their homes. The Persian doctor replied that the question of plague was one he and myself were competent to decide, and that any grievance they had should be laid before the President of the Sanitary Committee. He declared himself ready to accompany them at once to the Customs house, and we accordingly went there. On our way we heard a good deal of noise proceeding from the house of the sick woman, with whom I had left Sadik Khan, and I understood that he had been trying to forcibly disinfect the house. A section of the crowd, accompanied by myself and the Persian doctor, proceeded to the Customs house, the rest branched off towards the British Consulate.

I was not present when Sadik Khan was beaten, though I heard about it later. The crowd did not attempt to molest me or the Persian doctor. In reality the crowd originally consisted of a number of persons who intended to lay their complaints quietly before the Persian doctor, but while on their way to his house happened on a further case of "zulm" in the shape of Sadik Khan trying to forcibly disinfect the above-mentioned woman's house, which so inflamed them that they got entirely out of hand.

(Signed) Shaik AHMAD.

Taken in my presence and hearing.  
(Signed) C. DAUKES, *Vice-Consul*.

March 27, 1906.

Inclosure 3 in No. 137.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Mushir-ed-Dowleh.*

April 25, 1906.

THE Meftah-es-Saltaneh recently inquired on behalf of your Excellency, whether I could furnish him with the names of the ringleaders in the attack on His Majesty's Consulate on the 27th ultimo.

The names of the persons are, as far as have been ascertained, as follows:—

1. Mullah Mahomed Taki.
2. Mullah Mahomed Hussein.
3. Haji Khorashadi.
4. Hassan Khorashadi.
5. Mahomed Hussain, of Ney.
6. Mujtehid Shaikh Reza.

I may add that Haji Khorashadi, and Hassan Khorashadi were actually present when the dispensary was wrecked.

In sending the names of these persons to your Excellency I desire to make it quite clear that my doing so is a mere act of courtesy, and that it is no part of the duty of either His Majesty's Legation or of His Majesty's Consul in Seistan to identify the instigators of the recent riot. The duty to arrest and punish these offenders rests, as your Excellency is of course aware, with the Persian Government, who are doubtless giving the matter their serious consideration.

[16429]

No. 138.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 14.)*

(No. 118.)

Sir,

*Tehran, April 25, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the monthly summary of events in Persia which have not been recorded in separate despatches.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure in No. 138.

*Monthly Summary.*

*Meshed.*

INSTRUCTIONS have been sent to the Khabir-es-Sultaneh to repair the telegraph line from Meshed to Darra Gez and also to construct the line which has for some time been projected from the latter place to the Russian frontier near Artik.

2. M. Dmitriev, the Manager of the Russian Bank at Meshed, has lately returned there from a visit to Tehran. Major Sykes has heard that among other things he was able to arrange that no objections would be raised to the extension of the Russian cantonment at Takkiabad, outside Meshed, and M. Dmitriev also hinted that the subject of the Meshed-Askhabad and Meshed-Tehran roads had been discussed.

3. Captain Battye, who travelled from Askhabad to Meshed at the end of March, reported that the road was at that time very dangerous, mainly owing to the snow. The journey took five days.

4. A Russian General (named Velisoff?), accompanied by six Turkoman Cossacks, has lately been travelling in the neighbourhood of Bujnurd and the Yamut country. He was supplied with some presents by the Consul-General at Meshed.

5. A raid is reported on the Afghan frontier, in which seven camels were carried off from near Zorabad, opposite Zulfikar.

6. The Naiyer-ed-Dowleh (late Governor-General of Khorassan and now Governor of Tehran) is said to have obtained the monopoly of working the turquoise mines at Nishapur for five years in return for a payment of 200,000 tomans (about 35,000*l.*).

7. The Governor of Herat has informed Major Sykes officially that there is no plague anywhere in Afghanistan.

8. The Russian doctor (Dr. Frank), who has been deputed to Birjand for quarantine purposes, left Meshed on the 6th April. He was accompanied by an interpreter, three Russian Cossacks, and three Turkoman sowars. Telegrams were sent from the Prime Minister and Mushir-ed-Dowleh ordering that all possible assistance should be given to him.

9. There was an attempt at a bread riot in Meshed on the 6th April, but nothing occurred, and the people were persuaded to disperse. On the 8th the discontent assumed more serious proportions, and a demonstration was made against the Governor-General. During the riot three people were killed, including the ringleader, a Russian subject; and, owing to the vigorous action taken, order was quickly restored, and by the 10th the bazaars were again open.

*Seistan.*

1. Grain is at present extremely scarce in Seistan, and bread is said to be unobtainable in the city. Captain Macpherson has succeeded, however, in obtaining considerable quantities for the use of the troops arriving at Robat, through the local Chief, Purdil Khan.

2. A complaint was made to Mr. Grant Duff in March that His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kuh-i-Malek-Siah had hoisted a flag on ground that was Persian territory. On inquiry it was found that in accordance with Mahomedan custom the man's wife had placed a piece of yellow rag on a shrine in the neighbourhood, an incident which the local frontier officer considered of sufficient importance to justify an official complaint to the Central Government.

3. The telegraph line from Meshed has now been repaired as far as Seistan.

4. M. Molitor left Seistan on the 21st March. His relations with our Consular officials during his stay in Seistan have always been very cordial, and on his departure one of the clerks, with six sowars, was sent to see him off. A deputation of Sayyads also came in to thank him for his exertions on their behalf.

5. A Persian doctor, the Malik-ul-Ilukuma, reached Seistan for duty in connection with plague at the end of March. He is said to be well disposed towards us.

[1647]

2 G



*Kerman.*

1. The Firman Firma arrived at Ardistan, seven stages from Kerman, at the beginning of April.
2. The Karguzar of Mohammerah has been appointed to represent Persia at the annual meeting held to settle local disputes on the Baluch frontier.

*Yezd.*

1. A run on the branch of the Imperial Bank commenced on the 24th March, but found it well prepared to meet all demands. This was doubtless in connection with similar attempts to discredit the Bank at Tehran and other places.
2. It is again reported that the roads in the neighbourhood of Yezd are unsafe, and robberies are of frequent occurrence.

*Shiraz.*

The unrest in the Province of Fars continues, and Mr. Grahame has been approached by various Persians who wished to obtain British protection for their estates in the district. Fresh robberies on the Bushire and other roads are reported, and much inconvenience has been caused to merchants and others by the impressment of all mules arriving at Shiraz for the transport of the anderson of His Imperial Highness the Shoa-es-Saltaneh. A portion of these ladies left on the 7th April.

There is a growing feeling of discontent at the delay on the part of the Vazir-i-Makhsus to take any decisive measures. It is reported that the Mirakhor and "farrash bashi" of the Shoa-es-Saltaneh were seized as hostages on the road to Ispahan by kinsmen of the Kashgai Chief, Muhammad Hassan Khan, who has been for some time a prisoner in Shiraz.

*Ispahan.*

1. Since his return from Europe the Zil-es-Sultan has been busy recouping himself for the expenses of his journey. Even his sons have apparently not been exempt from his exactions, and those of them who hold small governorships have had their posts sold to the highest bidders.
2. A run on the Imperial Bank took place last month, and lasted about a fortnight.

*Tabreez.*

1. From Tabreez it is reported that a Turkish Lieutenant, with a small party of soldiers, has crossed the frontier into Dasht, where he is said to have enrolled 700 Kurds as irregular cavalry. The Turks have also seized the custom-house at Jaurma, whence they ejected the Persian employés.

2. A run on the Tabreez branch of the Imperial Bank began on the 5th April, but the Bank had no difficulty in meeting all demands, and it never assumed serious proportions.

(Signed) J. A. DOUGLAS, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*  
*Military Attaché.*

*Tehran.*

M. Naus, who proceeded to Constantinople early in October last, ostensibly on a mission to conclude a Commercial Treaty with the Turkish Government, has at length returned to Tehran. He arrived on the 20th April, and a short distance outside Tehran he met the Shah, who happened to be shooting quail in some fields near the high road. His Majesty exchanged some words with M. Naus, and expressed his satisfaction at his return. The following day M. Naus had a formal audience of His Majesty, at which the Grand Vizier and the Mushir-ed-Dowleh were present. When M. Naus retired the Grand Vizier was closeted with the Shah for over an hour. M. Naus subsequently

called on His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires and discussed the political situation with him, which has been reported in a separate despatch.

The clergy do not seem likely to renew their agitation against him just at present.

The Turco-Persian frontier question is still pending, and feeling in Government circles is acute respecting the high-handed action of the Turkish Government on the Lahijan border. The present phase of the dispute has been fully reported in separate despatches.

The Bakhtiari Khans are about to assemble at Tehran with the object of composing the differences which have arisen between them. Semsam-es-Sultaneh and Shahab-es-Sultaneh have been here some time; Shuja-es-Sultan will return shortly from Meshed; and Haji Ali Kuli Khan is due to-day or to-morrow. They propose to invoke the assistance of His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires in the matter which affects the D'Arcy oil enterprise.

The clergy have been much quieter lately, though a prominent member of their party, named Haji Sheikh-ur-Reis, spoke very openly in the pulpit urging the people to demand reforms, and was consequently threatened by the Government with expulsion. Though this ecclesiastic is reputed to be a member of the Behai sect, he openly professes the tenets of Islam. He was consequently supported by the leading Mujtehedes, who intimidated the Shah into reversing the original order for his expulsion. The Sheikh is on friendly terms with His Majesty's Legation, and turned to us in the moment of trouble, but it was fortunately not necessary even to take unofficial steps on his behalf, as his clerical friends were quite strong enough to support him.

The Shah is apparently in the enjoyment of comparatively good health, and, in conversation with his courtiers, again projects a visit to Europe for next spring. It is difficult to conceive that His Majesty can be fully aware of the critical situation of the country, though some assert that nothing is kept from him.

It is reported that the Governorship of Khorassan has been offered to the Prince Shoa-es-Sultaneh, but that His Highness has refused it.

Momtahan-es-Sultaneh, a member of the Foreign Office, whose last post was that of Consul-General at Bagdad, has been appointed on a special mission to Seistan in connection with the troubles which have lately occurred there.

## MATTERS dealt with in separate Despatches.

Matters dealt with.	Number and Date of Despatch.
Din Mahommed Khan, Afghan .. ..	No. 94, Confidential, April 9, 1906.
Bushire-Shiraz road .. ..	No. 95, April 11, and No. 100, April 22, 1906.
Luristan trade route .. ..	No. 97, April 21, 1906.
Political situation in Persia .. ..	No. 101, Confidential, April 22, 1906.
Kum-Sultanabad road .. ..	No. 102, April 22, 1906.
Perso-Turkish frontier dispute .. ..	No. 103, April 23, No. 113, April 24, and No. 119, April 25, 1906.
Seistan Water Award .. ..	No. 104, April 23, 1906.
Indo-Persian Parcel-Post Convention .. ..	No. 105, April 23, 1906.
Grain embargo .. ..	No. 10, Commercial, April 23, 1906.
Russian Roads Commission .. ..	No. 107, April 23, 1906.
Perso-Afghan frontier .. ..	No. 108, Confidential, April 23, 1906.
Russian Consulate at Bunder Abbas .. ..	No. 109, April 23, 1906.
The Valahd .. ..	No. 110, April 23, and No. 111, Confidential, April 23, 1906.
Urmi murders .. ..	No. 112, April 24, 1906.
M. Naus' return .. ..	No. 114, Secret, April 24, 1906.
Henjam .. ..	No. 115 and No. 116, April 25, 1906.
Anglo-Russian land dispute in Seistan .. ..	No. 120, April 25, 1906.
Plague in Seistan .. ..	No. 11, Commercial, April 25, 1906.
Seistan disturbances .. ..	No. 117, April 25, 1906.



[16430]

No. 139.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 14.)*

(No. 119.)

Sir,

*Tehran, April 25, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez, regarding the serious state of affairs on the Perso-Turkish frontier, especially in the district between Souj Bulak and Urmi.

As you are aware, the head-quarters of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Mission to the Nestorians is at Urmi. In these circumstances, I ventured in my telegram of to-day's date to suggest that His Majesty's Government should warn both the Persian and Turkish Governments that they will be held responsible for the lives and property of British subjects in the districts likely to be affected by the strained relations existing between the Porte and the Government of His Majesty the Shah.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure in No. 139.

*Consul-General Wratislaw to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 21.)

Sir,

*Tabreez, April 10, 1906.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 14 of the 31st March, on the subject of the Turco-Persian frontier dispute, I have the honour to report that Mukarrem-es-Sultaneh, a member of the Boundary Commission, has left for Souj Bulak, after a sojourn of several days in Tabreez.

Mukarrem-es-Sultaneh's special functions on the Commission appear to be those of Mihmandar. He has taken with him a large stock of sparkling and other wines of dubious vintages, with which it is proposed to dull the intellects of the Turkish Commission.

Meanwhile the state of affairs all along the frontier is very bad, and the Kurds, specially in the district of Soldouz, between Souj Bulak and Urmi, are ravaging the country. They have recently murdered a Nestorian priest and his wife in their house in Soldouz, where the inhabitants, both Mussulman and Christian, are anxious to flee, if only they had somewhere to take refuge.

The position of the Christians in and around Mawana continues to be very critical.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) A. WRATISLAW.

[16431]

No. 140.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 14.)*

(No. 120.)

Sir,

*Tehran, April 25, 1906.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 108 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a note to the Persian Government, regarding the action of two Russian telegraph clerks at Nasratabad, Seistan, in demolishing the boundary pillars erected by His Majesty's Consul and the Persian authorities on certain land destined for the use of a British Indian trader.

I also inclose a note which I have addressed to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires with regard to the matter. M. de Somow has promised to inquire into the case. At an interview I had yesterday with the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, his Excellency informed me that the local authorities had confirmed the account of the incident given by Captain Macpherson and that he had asked M. de Somow for an explanation.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 140.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Mushir-ed-Dowleh.*

(Translation.)

*Tehran, April 19, 1906.*

HIS Majesty's Consul in Seistan reports that, on the 17th instant, the Itisham-ul-Vezareh, on behalf of the Persian Government, formally marked out and delivered to him a plot of land, which had been previously selected, with the knowledge and concurrence of the local authorities, and was destined for the use of a British Indian trader. The limits of the land granted was marked out by pillars. Immediately after the departure of the Itisham-ul-Vezareh, two Russian telegraph signallers, accompanied by several Seistanis, came to the spot and proceeded to demolish the pillars erected by the Itisham-ul-Vezareh and His Majesty's Consul, alleging that the ground belonged to them.

As the land was marked out and handed over by an officer of the Persian Government, it would appear unlikely that there is any foundation to the claim put forward; but, even supposing that it is a just one, I am convinced that your Excellency will agree with me that the Russians referred to had no right to take violent measures or, indeed, in any way to interfere in the matter, which, if there was any doubt as to its ownership, was one for discussion between the Consulates of the two Powers and the Persian authorities.

I have the honour to request your Excellency to give orders for the re-erection of the pillars erected to mark out the ground. In the meantime, I have brought the matter to the knowledge of His Majesty's Government and the Russian Legation.

I avail, &amp;c.

(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 2 in No. 140.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to M. de Somow.*

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

*Téhéran, le 19 Avril, 1906.*

J'AI l'honneur d'attirer votre attention sur le fait suivant qui s'est passé au Seistan le 17 courant :—

L'Itisham-ul-Vezareh, de la part du Gouvernement Persan, le jour préindiqué, a délimité et délivré au Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique un terrain à Nasratabad destiné à l'usage d'un marchand Anglo-Indien. Les limites du terrain en question étaient marquées par des piliers. Immédiatement après le départ de l'Itisham-ul-Vezareh, deux télégraphistes Russes, accompagnés de quelques Seistanis, sont arrivés et sans que le Consul de Sa Majesté ait eu la moindre communication avec le Consul Russe au sujet du terrain se sont mis à détruire les piliers susmentionnés en alléguant que le terrain leur appartenait.

Même en supposant que ces prétensions sont bien fondées, j'ai de la peine à croire que vous approuverez la façon d'agir des télégraphistes Russes. Je vous saurai gré de me communiquer votre manière de voir.

En attendant je n'ai pas manqué de saisir le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté de l'incident.

Je profite, &amp;c.

(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

[16432]

No. 141.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 14.)*

(No. 121.)

Sir,

*Tehran, April 25, 1906.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 63 of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a note to the Persian Government on the subject of the Turco-Persian frontier dispute.

I saw the Mushir-ed-Dowleh on the 24th instant, and in accordance with your instructions informed his Excellency that, in view of the present unconciliatory attitude of the Persian Government on various outstanding questions, His Majesty's Government

[1647]

2 H

are not inclined to take any action beyond the strict limits of the obligations imposed by Treaty. His Excellency took the message down on paper, and then inquired in what way the Persian Government had shown themselves unconciliatory. I replied that for the last two or three years, as his Excellency was well aware, scarcely a single one of our many outstanding claims had been settled; while the action of the Persian Government as regards the Seistan Water Award, the attacks on our officers, the Kuh-i-Malik Siah telegraph extension, and many other matters, had produced the impression on His Majesty's Government that the Government of the Shah was deliberately unconciliatory. The Mushir-ed-Dowleh said he was extremely sorry that such an impression had been made, and if I would send him a list of outstanding questions and claims he would do his best to get them settled. I answered that all of our claims had constantly been placed before him and pressed during the last two years, but after the departure of the monthly courier I would again send his Excellency a list of the various questions and claims His Majesty's Government desired the Persian Government to settle.

I am happy to say that His Majesty's Consul-General at Bushire reports that a serious attempt is being made by the Governor of the Gulf Ports to settle some of our very numerous claims in that region.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure in No. 141.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Mushir-ed-Dowleh.*

*Tehran, April 24, 1906.*

I DID not fail to communicate to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the substance of the conversation I had the honour to have with you on the 22nd instant regarding the frontier dispute between Persia and Turkey.

Sir Edward Grey has instructed me to inform your Excellency that His Majesty's Ambassador and the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople are acting in concert with the Persian Ambassador, who is doubtless keeping the Government of His Majesty the Shah informed of the progress of the negotiations in respect to the frontier question.

[16433]

No. 142.

*Mr. F. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 14.)*

(No. 122.)  
Sir,

*Tehran, April 26, 1906.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 52 of the 27th February last, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul in Seistan regarding the steps he has taken to meet Russian intrigue locally.

I also inclose a copy of a note from the Administrator of Customs, showing that the Persian Government have not taken quarantine measures against Afghanistan.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 142.

*Consul Macpherson to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 8. Confidential.)  
Sir,

*Seistan, March 5, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to address you on the subject of the plague in Seistan.

In my letter dated the 27th January to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, forwarded to you under cover of my letter No. 3 of the same date, I suggested two alternative lines of action to meet possible developments of Russian activity. One of these proposals was that, in the event of Russian intrigue failing to develop to an injurious extent, the local Sanitary Council should be dissolved, and the Director of Plague Operations should be at liberty to consult the British and Russian doctors on purely medical matters.

In the reply of His Majesty's Government, repeated to me in your telegram

No. 38 of the 1st instant, it was laid down that "Russian intrigue should, if possible, be met locally."

I have now the honour to report that Dr. Zaplotynski's somewhat crude attempts to belittle hospital assistant Sheikh Ahmed's services, to have the Consular post stopped, and generally gain political advantage out of his position, have merely resulted in M. Molitor regarding all his proposals with suspicion.

Although Dr. Zaplotynski originally protested very strongly against the limitations to the meetings of the Sanitary Council proposed by us, our object has been gradually gained; the Council has not met for three weeks, and M. Molitor has expressed his intention of not summoning it till absolutely necessary.

I may mention here that in the *procès-verbal* of the Sanitary Council of Tehran (18th Meeting on the 8th January) it is stated that the President had already addressed a letter to the Grand Vizier, suggesting that the medical arrangements in Seistan could be intrusted to Dr. Zaplotynski, assisted by the native doctor of the British Consulate.

The Sub-Committee of the local Council was formed at my suggestion, and now that it has served its purpose in curtailing Dr. Zaplotynski's sphere of action, it can serve no object as long as the arrangements are in the hands of an impartial official.

2. The question of Russian interference to the north of Seistan now takes the more important place. While the Russians could hinder our trade by supporting the imposition of quarantine at Kuh-i-Malik Siah, they maintained that the plague had been introduced from India; but, now that quarantine has been removed, there are signs that they are endeavouring to prove Afghanistan to be infected, with the object of either strengthening their hands on the Turbat-Karez cordon, or of obtaining a greater share in the arrangements at Bandan and on the Kain-Afghan frontier.

3. I trust that before this letter arrives in Tehran two more hospital assistants will have been dispatched by the Government of India, and, as Captain Kelly is also accompanied by a hospital assistant, we shall thus have three men to be posted wherever may be considered most necessary.

It has been suggested that Dr. Claranger should be relieved at Nasratabad by a hospital assistant, so that his services would be available for employment at Bandan or elsewhere to the north of Seistan. This seems a desirable precaution, as Russian intrigue, not being likely to extend as far south as Nasratabad Sipi, and there not being much communication between Seistan and Persian Baluchistan, the services of a European doctor would hardly seem to be necessary there, whereas to the north we should be prepared for any developments.

4. As our success in obtaining control of the various quarantine posts which have been established has been largely, if not entirely, due to our having had four medical men within reach, it would appear that this is the best policy to follow, especially as it is almost certain that additional men will be required in the near future for duty on the Afghan-Kain frontier. The most effectual method of dealing with the local situation in Seistan proper would also appear to be to put in as many hospital assistants as possible, whose services the Persian Government would find it hard to refuse, as by this means we should gradually obtain the chief share of the medical arrangements here, as we already have at the quarantine posts surrounding Seistan.

Copies of this letter are being forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, and His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General for Khorassan.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) A. D. MACPHERSON, Captain.

Inclosure 2 in No. 142.

*M. Priem to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

*Téhéran, le 7 Avril, 1906.*

COMME suite à votre lettre en date du 2 Avril courant, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître que le Gouvernement Persan n'a pas prescrit de mesures quaranténaires contre les provenances Afghanes.

Je profite, &c.  
(Signé) PRIEM, l'Administrateur des Douanes.

[16435]

No. 143.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 14.)*(No. 124.)  
Sir,*Tehran, April 26, 1906.*

WITH reference to your telegrams Nos. 54 and 62 of the 7th and 19th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of correspondence with the Persian Government on the subject of the recent disturbances at Nasratabad, Seistan.

So far as I am aware, the Persian Government have, up to the present, made no attempt to arrest the persons who instigated, or were concerned in, the riot.

The Deputy-Governor and most of the other local officials, together with the soldiers garrisoning Nasratabad, would appear to have left the town, and on Tuesday the Mushir-ed-Dowleh informed me that the Frontier Officer, Itisham-ul-Vezareh, had telegraphed to him, briefly stating that he was tired of Seistan and had left for Tehran. A special official, named Momtahan-es-Saltaneh, has been ordered to proceed with all dispatch to Seistan, but I gather from the Mushir-ed-Dowleh that it will be very difficult to persuade him to leave Tehran.

In order to allay popular excitement at Nasratabad and opposition to Quarantine Regulations, I have, at the suggestion of His Majesty's Consul in Seistan, proposed to the Persian Government that a prominent Mollah should be appointed both to the Tehran and to the Seistan Sanitary Councils. This would, I think, have the effect of reassuring the people and convincing them that there is nothing in the measures for combating the plague antagonistic to the Mahommedan religion.

You will see that in his note of the 17th instant the Mushir-ed-Dowleh again declines to sanction the linking-up of Kuh-i-Malik Siah and Nasratabad by a telegraph line.

The Persian Cossacks destined to enforce quarantine in Seistan are stated to be leaving here to-day.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 143.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Mushir-ed-Dowleh.*

(Translation.)

*March 31, 1906.*

WITH reference to our conversation on the evening of Wednesday last, in regard to the riot at Nasratabad, I have the honour to inform you that the dispensary of His Majesty's Consulate was practically destroyed by the populace on the 27th March, the damage including the furniture and outer doors of the hospital.

In addition to Dr. Kelly and Captain Macpherson, who were struck by clods, the compounder of the dispensary received a severe contusion on the arm.

I shall, on learning the details of the damage done by the mob to the property of His Majesty's Government or to property belonging to British subjects, prefer a claim for the amount against the Persian Government.

I learn from a report received yesterday evening from Seistan that great excitement still prevails at Nasratabad, where the Governor, in spite of his good intentions, seems powerless to deal with the populace.

His Majesty's Consul considers the situation dangerous, and I need hardly impress on your Excellency the necessity of dealing effectually and promptly with it. I should be obliged if you would kindly let me know, as soon as possible, what steps are being taken to protect His Majesty's Consulate and to punish the persons guilty of the attack on Captain Macpherson, his staff, and on the Consular dispensary.

Inclosure 2 in No. 143.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Mushir-ed-Dowleh.*

(Translation.)

*April 2, 1906.*

His Majesty's Consul in Seistan reports that the situation at Nasratabad is again very serious, and that the Mollahs of that town intend to demand certain concessions, which, if not granted, they propose to enforce.

I am confident that the Persian Government are doing, and will continue to

do, all they can to protect the British subjects resident in Nasratabad, and it is scarcely necessary for me to point out to your Excellency the importance which His Majesty's Government attach to the speedy restoration of order in Seistan and to the punishment of the persons implicated in the attack on His Majesty's Consul and the Consulate dispensary.

Inclosure 3 in No. 143.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Mushir-ed-Dowleh.**April 8, 1906.*

(Translation.)

I HAVE the honour to inform you that details of the recent riot in Nasratabad, involving an attack on His Majesty's Consul and the destruction of the Consular dispensary, have been laid before His Majesty's Government.

I am instructed by His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to impress upon your Excellency the gravity of the situation in Seistan, and to state that the Persian Government will be held responsible for any damage which may thereby accrue to the lives and property of British subjects resident in that province.

In view of the necessity which recent events in Seistan have more than ever demonstrated for the establishment of direct telegraphic communication between Nasratabad and Kuh-i-Malik Siah, I am directed again to draw your Excellency's attention to the urgency of permission being granted for the immediate construction of the line in question.

Inclosure 4 in No. 143

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Mushir-ed-Dowleh.*

(Translation.)

*April 14, 1906.*

HIS Majesty's Consul in Seistan informs me that the Deputy-Governor of that province has left Nasratabad, and is living in a place some 4 miles from the town. Owing to the prevailing floods, communication with him is almost impossible.

In view of the serious condition of Nasratabad and the prevailing plague epidemic, I am confident that your Excellency will agree with me that the absence of the principal civil authority is most undesirable, and I hope that the Persian Government will see their way to order him to return at once.

I may add, for your Excellency's information, that the Deputy-Governor would appear to have received no orders to take steps for the punishment of the persons concerned in the recent outrage on His Majesty's Consul and the destruction of the Consular dispensary.

Inclosure 5 in No. 143.

*Mushir-ed-Dowleh to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(Translation.)

*April 17, 1906.*

I HAVE received your note of the 14th instant, informing me that the Deputy-Governor is staying about half a farsakh out of the town of Nasratabad. I telegraphed to him at once to return to town without delay.

You inquired as to the punishment of those concerned in interfering with the dispensary of the British Consulate. I have the honour to point out that at such a moment, when the public agitation has been the cause of this movement and when the present condition of the place requires much sympathy and consideration, the punishment of these people is not advisable, and I have no doubt that you will agree with me in this point.

Inclosure 6 in No. 143.

*Mushir-ed-Dowleh to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(Translation.)

April 17, 1906.

I HAVE received your note of the 8th instant, respecting the public agitation in Seistan, and I have the honour to state, for your information, that on receipt of this news strong telegraphic orders were sent, and the local authorities took energetic measures for the suppression of the riot and agitation, and order was restored. Subsequently the necessary instructions and stringent orders were sent to prevent the recurrence of such incidents, and I hope the public agitation will not be renewed.

You again mentioned the telegraph extension to Kuh-i-Malik Siah. For the reasons frequently mentioned to you, the Persian Government do not consider it advisable to take any measure in connection with it.

Inclosure 7 in No. 143.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Mushir-ed-Dowleh.*

(Translation.)

April 20, 1906.

YOU informed me yesterday that, in view of the state of Nasratabad, the Persian Government were unable for the present to take steps to arrest and punish the ringleaders in the recent attack on His Majesty's Consul, or those concerned in the destruction of the Consular dispensary.

I have had the honour, on more than one occasion, to inform your Excellency that His Majesty's Government had no desire to cause the Persian Government embarrassment by insisting on the arrest of the offenders before a reasonable time had elapsed since the incidents of the 27th ultimo.

It is, however, now over three weeks since the riot, and His Majesty's Consul reports that the Deputy-Governor has not only taken no steps to apprehend and punish the delinquents, but has left the town for a place which, owing to the prevailing floods, is nearly inaccessible. I am convinced that your Excellency will appreciate the gravity of the offence committed against His Majesty's Consul, and the impossibility of allowing matters to remain in their present state.

I have to-day received instructions to urge the Persian Government to consider the necessity of taking early measures to punish the rioters. The failure to do this would, in Sir Edward Grey's opinion, prove that the Persian Government are unable to afford His Majesty's Consul in Seistan proper protection, and would compel His Majesty's Government to take steps accordingly.

[16438]

No. 144.

*Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 14.)*

(No. 324.)

Sir,

Pera, May 9, 1906.

REFERRING to my despatch No. 302 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of a telegram from the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs to his Excellency the Persian Ambassador at this Court, informing him of the approaching departure from Tehran of the Persian Commissioners relative to the Turco-Persian frontier dispute.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 144.

*Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Persian Ambassador at Constantinople.*

(Traduction.)

J'AI reçu votre dépêche datée du 7 Rehi-ul-Evvel, contenant la note de la Sublime Porte, ainsi que l'avis de leurs Excellences les Ambassadeurs d'Angleterre et de Russie, relative à l'expédition immédiate de la Commission du Gouvernement

Impérial pour rejoindre la Commission Ottomane. J'ai soumis votre dépêche à Sa Majesté Impériale le Schah, qui a daigné approuver l'avis de votre Altesse et décréter le départ de la Commission le plus tôt possible. Son Excellence Mirza Mahmoud Khan, Etechan-ul-Sultaneh, Ministre de Perse à Berlin, a été nommé Chef de la Commission, qui est composée de son Adjoint son Excellence Nazim-el-Mulk, d'Ingénieurs, de Secrétaires et Médecin, etc. Le départ de Téhéran a été fixé pour le Lundi, 12 Rehi-ul-Evvel (7 Mai), et elle arrivera bientôt à la frontière.

Comme nous avons expédié notre Commission par suite des bonnes relations existant entre nos deux Gouvernements et les promesses formelles de votre Altesse, nous espérons qu'avant que la Commission Mixte commence la délimitation de la frontière, le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman retirera ses troupes de Passova.

(Signé) MOUCHIR-ED-DOWLEH.

Téhéran, le 7 Mai, 1906.

[16619]

No. 145.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 15.)*

(No. 136.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, May 14, 1906.

RUMOURED German loan: My telegram of the 9th instant.

Grand Vizier denies that any such negotiations are in progress. His Highness added, however, that since financial assistance was refused by both Russia and England, the Persian Government must apply elsewhere for money.

I am informed by the German Minister that the foundation of a German school in Tehran has been suggested by him, but that no decision has as yet been arrived at in the matter.

[16618]

No. 146.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 15.)*

(No. 137.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, May 14, 1906.

ANGLO-RUSSIAN land dispute in Seistan: My telegram No. 60 of the 3rd March.

Russian Chargé d'Affaires has sent instructions to Russian Consul to communicate with you, with a view to a joint amicable settlement. You should communicate with your Russian colleague accordingly.

(Addressed to Seistan; repeated to India and Foreign Office.)

[16620]

No. 147.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 14.)*

(No. 138.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, May 14, 1906.

SEISTAN disturbances.

The special official appointed to deal with the question of the Seistan riots has left Tehran. In the past this man has shown himself friendly to us.

[16728]

No. 148.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 15.)*

(No. 139. Secret.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, May 15, 1906.

SHAH'S illness.

Shah, as the result of recent worries, has had a stroke of paralysis. He will probably recover, but it is not yet certain whether the stroke may not affect his mind.

His Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez has been instructed to inform the Valiahd confidentially of the Shah's state.



[14923]

No. 149.

*Foreign Office to Treasury.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, May 15, 1906.*

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, copies of correspondence, as marked in the margin,\* relative to the unsettled state of the Province of Kerman, in Persia, and the necessity for a better protection of the trade route between Kerman and Bunder Abbas.

It will be observed that in March of last year Sir A. Hardinge, then His Majesty's Minister in Tehran, recommended that British Consular Agents or hospital assistants should be appointed to Sirjan, Rafsinjan, and Bampur; further, that in June last His Majesty's Acting Consul at Kerman proposed, among other suggestions, that his Consular guards should be raised from six to twenty-four men in order that a bi-monthly service might be organized to escort and protect British caravans on the Bunder Abbas road. The Government of India, who were requested to furnish their observations on these recommendations, are now prepared to carry them into effect, provided that half the cost is borne by Imperial funds.

Sir E. Grey is not disposed to recommend the immediate establishment of the three Consular Agencies as proposed by Sir A. Hardinge and the Government of India. He would, however, suggest that in view of the present insecurity on the Kerman-Bunder Abbas road it might be advisable to increase temporarily the Kerman Consular guard to twenty-four men, in order to provide adequate protection to British commerce, and I am to request that you will move their Lordships to take this proposal into their favourable consideration.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) E. GORST.

[16276]

No. 150.

*Foreign Office to India Office.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, May 15, 1906.*

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, forwarding copy of a telegram from the Government of India relative to the situation in Seistan.

Sir E. Grey notes that the Government of India are disposed to favour the suggestion made by Mr. Grant Duff in his telegram No. 129 of the 5th May that the British force at Robat should, in certain eventualities, be sent to Nasratabad. He is, however, of opinion that the entry of British troops into Persia would be likely to give rise to difficulties both of a local and general nature, and should, if possible, be avoided. As regards the question of punishing the persons concerned in the recent riots, it appears to Sir E. Grey doubtful whether the Persian forces on the spot, which were admittedly unequal to protecting the European residents during the disorders, could now punish the rioters or cope with further rioting which an attempt to do so might provoke. He does not, however, see any objection to adopting the suggestion of the Government of India that the local rank of Vice-Consul should be granted to Dr. Watson.

I am to transmit herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, copy of a telegram which, if Mr. Morley concurs in its terms, it is proposed to send to Mr. Grant Duff on this subject,† in reply to his telegram No. 129.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) E. GORST.

\* Sir A. Hardinge, No. 68; ditto, No. 169, 1905; and *ante*, No. 99.

† No. 166.

[16854]

No. 151.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 16.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 15th instant, relative to the proposed employment of a second British signaller upon the Tehran and Seistan telegraph line.

*India Office, May 16, 1906.*

*Inclosure in No. 151.*

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*May 15, 1906.*

SERVICES of another signaller are asked for by Major Sykes, who reports that one man can no longer dispose of the work over the telegraph line between Seistan and Tehran which the Indo-European Department signaller at Meshed now performs. The necessary arrangements with the Shah's Government will be made by His Majesty's Legation at Tehran, who support Major Sykes' request.

Mr. Grant Duff thinks it desirable that the British signallers, like their Russian colleagues, should accept messages from the public, and the addition proposed will enable this to be done. 240 r. per mensem will represent the aggregate pay and allowance of a second signaller at Meshed, whom we consider to be necessary.

Indo-European Telegraph Department are reported by Mr. Grant Duff to be unable to assist, and we therefore propose, subject to your concurrence, that a man should be sent from India.

(Repeated to Seistan, with the request that His Majesty's Consul at that place will repeat to Tehran and Meshed.)

[16873]

No. 152.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 16.)*

(No. 140.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, May 16, 1906.*

PARCEL Post Convention: My despatch No. 105.

His Majesty's Consul-General at Bushire telegraphs as follows:—

"Only local letters have to have Indian stamps. Letters from up-country bearing Persian stamps are accepted by the Indian Post Office."

The inaccuracy of the statement contained in the Mushir-ed-Dowleh's note of the 7th ultimo has been pointed out to his Excellency.

[16323]

No. 153.

*Foreign Office to India Office.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, May 16, 1906.*

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran, reporting an attack on a Warrant Officer of the Royal Engineers by servants of the Acting Governor of Kashan.

Sir E. Grey proposes, if Mr. Secretary Morley concurs, to approve the action taken by Mr. Grant Duff in the matter.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) E. GORST.

[1647]

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[16982]

No. 154.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 17.)*

(No. 141.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, May 17, 1906.*

SHAH'S illness.

The seriousness of His Majesty's condition is admitted by the Mushir-ed-Dowleh. False information is being sent to the Valiahd by the Grand Vizier.

[16979]

No. 155.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 17.)*

(No. 142.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, May 17, 1906.*

I AM informed by the Mushir-ed-Dowleh that the scheme for establishing a German school in Tehran will be carried through.

[16982]

No. 156.

*Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Spring-Rice.*

(No. 91. Secret.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, May 17, 1906.*

ILLNESS of Shah of Persia.

Mr. Grant Duff reports that His Majesty has had a paralytic stroke, and that his condition is admitted to be serious by Mushir-ed-Dowleh. The Grand Vizier's attitude appears to be open to suspicion; it is rumoured that he is intriguing in favour of Shoa-es-Sultaneh.

You should inform the Russian Government that we presume that they would wish to support the succession of the Valiahd in the event of the death of the Shah, and that we would, in that case, act with them.

[15445]

No. 157.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. O'Connor.*

(No. 191.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, May 17, 1906.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatches Nos. 288 and 294 of the 27th ultimo and 1st instant, reporting conversations with the Russian and Persian Ambassadors regarding the Turco-Persian frontier dispute.

I approve your action and the language which you held to M. Zinoviev and to Prince Riga Khan on the subject.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

[12931]

No. 158.

*Foreign Office to India Office.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, May 17, 1906.*

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran,\* regarding the question whether Persian subjects and Bahreinis, Koweitis, &c., in the employ of British subjects resident in Persia are entitled to the good offices of British Consular officers in that country.

Sir E. Grey proposes, if Mr. Morley concurs, to inform Mr. Grant Duff that His Majesty's Legation and His Majesty's Consular officers in Persia should continue to exercise their good offices on behalf of the servants of British subjects, whether such servants are Persians, Bahreinis, Koweitis, Muscatis, &c., but that unless the persons concerned are British protected persons action on their behalf should be limited to good offices.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) E. GORST.

[17134]

No. 159.

*Mr. Spring-Rice to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 18.)*

(No. 97.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*St. Petersburg, May 18, 1906.*

ILLNESS of Shah. I made a communication on the subject of Persia in the sense of your telegram No. 91, of yesterday, to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, for which his Excellency expressed his thanks, and which he promised at once to lay before the Emperor. He expressed at the same time the personal satisfaction which it afforded him to have an opportunity of co-operating once more with His Majesty's Government.

M. Zerliski added, that the latest reports indicated some improvement in the health of the Shah.

The Director of the First Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with whom I spoke later, told me that there was some hope of a firm Government in view of the character of the Vali-Ahd, and laid stress on the importance of co-operation between the two Powers on this occasion in conformity with the course followed in 1834 and 1896. He had heard that the Shua-es-Saltaneh was a possible candidate.

I subsequently had some conversation with the newly appointed Russian Minister at Tehran, who expressed the opinion that it was necessary at once to bring the Vali-Ahd to Tehran and to place at the disposal of the two Legations a sum of money for use in paying the arrears due to the troops in case of need, and so securing their loyalty to the Vali-Ahd. (See correspondence respecting Persia during the summer of 1896.)

I venture to add that, in my opinion, the last point should receive immediate and serious consideration, as it is of great importance.

[17135]

No. 160.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 18.)*

(No. 143.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, May 18, 1906*

PERSO-TURKISH frontier dispute.

The Persian Commissioner has started for Pasveh from Tehran.

[17235]

No. 161.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 19.)*

Sir,

*India Office, May 18, 1906.*

WITH reference to the Viceroy's telegram of the 15th May, proposing that a second British telegraph signaller should be detailed for duty at Meshed, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to say that, subject to Sir E. Grey's concurrence, he is prepared to sanction the proposal.

It has been ascertained from the Director-in-chief of the Indo-European Telegraph Department that two signallers are expected to arrive in Tehran from this country in about a fortnight, and that one of these will be available for duty at Meshed. If, therefore, the appointment of the second signaller to the Meshed office is approved, it will not be necessary to send a signaller from India as proposed by the Government of India.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[17238]

No. 162.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 19.)*

Sir,

*India Office, May 18, 1906.*

IN reply to Sir E. Gorst's letter of the 15th instant, relative to the situation in Seistan, I am directed to request that you will inform Secretary Sir E. Grey that Mr. Secretary Morley concurs in the proposed instructions to Mr. Grant Duff.

The Government of India are being informed.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[17234]

No. 163.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 19.)*

Sir,

*India Office, May 18, 1906.*

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to acknowledge the receipt of Sir E. Gorst's letter of the 16th instant, and to say that he concurs in the proposal of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to approve the action taken by His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran in the matter of the assault on a warrant officer of the Royal Engineers, in the service of the Indo-European Telegraph Department, by the official servants of the Acting Governor of Kashan.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[17295]

No. 164.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 19.)*

(No. 114)

(Telegraphic.) P.

SHAH'S illness.

*Tehran, May 19, 1906.*

Your telegram No. 77.

I have seen the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, who agrees with me that the immediate presence of the Valiahd in Tehran is desirable. With your sanction I propose to instruct His Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez to advise His Imperial Highness to start for Tehran at once.

It is still uncertain what course the Shah's illness may take, and though he is stated to be better, he is quite unfit to attend to business.

[17234]

No. 165.

*Sir Edward Grey to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 78.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

KASHAN incident.

*Foreign Office, May 19, 1906.*

I approve your action, reported in your telegram No. 134.

[17238]

No. 166.

*Sir Edward Grey to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 79)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, May 19, 1906.*

RIOTS in Seistan: see Government of India's telegram of the 11th instant and your No. 129.

You may take steps, with a view to carrying out the Viceroy's suggestion, that Watson should have local rank of Vice-Consul.

Dispatch of British troops to Nasratabad, except to afford protection, would be very undesirable.

It would be advisable to await the arrival of further reinforcements and of the official to whom you refer in your telegram No. 116. An attempt on the part of Persian Government to punish rioters might provoke further disturbances, with which they might be unable to cope; we doubt also whether they are locally strong enough to carry punishment into effect.

The riots appear from the Consul's reports to have been directed primarily against the Customs officials. His Majesty's Government do not wish to incur the whole of the odium for punishing them, and we must on no account become involved in punitive measures.

[17295]

No. 167.

*Sir Edward Grey to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 80.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

HEALTH of Shah.

*Foreign Office, May 19, 1906.*

You should await further instructions before taking action proposed in your telegram No. 144.

[17479]

No. 168.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 21.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 29th March, relative to the possibility of disturbances breaking out in Persia.

*India Office, May 19, 1906.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 168.

*Government of India to Rear-Admiral Pöe.*

(Confidential.)

*Fort William, February 28, 1906.*

I AM directed to forward, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Grant Duff, His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, Tehran, dated the 28th December, 1905, regarding the possibility of disturbances breaking out in Persia in the near future.

2. Should His Majesty's Government consider that the situation demands special preparations on your Excellency's part, a communication will no doubt be addressed to your Excellency by the Admiralty. But it is considered desirable at once to place your Excellency in possession of the views of His Majesty's Minister at Tehran as to the present situation in Persia.

Inclosure 2 in No. 168.

*Vice-Admiral Pöe to Government of India.*

(Confidential.)

Sir,

*"Hermes," Bombay, March 3, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, regarding the possibility of disturbances breaking out in Persia in the near future, and, in reply, I beg to thank you for putting me in possession of the views of His Majesty's Minister at Tehran, and to say that I have not, up to the present, received any instructions on the subject from the Admiralty; but, in the event of the Government of India wishing to communicate with me, a copy of the programme of my forthcoming cruise in the Persian Gulf was forwarded for the information of his Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council in my letter of the 27th January, 1906.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) E. S. PÖE, *Commander-in-chief.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 168.

*Adjutant-General in India to G.O.C., Western Command.*

(Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Camp, March 3, 1906.*

REFERENCE correspondence ending with my letter of the 27th February.  
Please warn 34th Poona Horse to hold two British officers and one squadron of Mussulmans, complete with horses and mules and at field service strength, in readiness

[1617]

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for dispatch to Bushire at short notice, if required. Hospital assistant will accompany detachment. Special clothing, &c., collected at Ahmednagar for 125th Rifles should be transferred to Aurungabad for issue to the 34th if necessary. Consequent on decision to detail cavalry instead of infantry for this duty, all orders issued regarding possible employment of 125th Rifles are cancelled, and detachment of that regiment at Ahmednagar may be dispatched with head-quarters to Bangalore.

Please acknowledge.

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Inclosure 4 in No. 168.

*Adjutant-General in India to Government of India.*

*Camp, March 5, 1906.*

FORWARDED for information.

2. It has been ascertained that the passes on the Bushire-Tehran road will become practicable for mounted troops from about the 10th March, after which date the snow can be disregarded. In these circumstances cavalry will, as the Director of Military Operations points out, be better fitted for the duty than infantry.

3. It is requested that, under the orders of Government, the local political officers who, if the detachment is actually dispatched, will be required to arrange for supplies *en route* for men and animals, may be warned to make necessary arrangements.

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[17312]

No. 169.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 21.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 11th instant, relative to the Luristan trade route.

*India Office, May 19, 1906.*

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Inclosure in No. 169.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*India Office, May 11, 1906.*

ACTION at the present time in regard to the Luristan trade route, referred to in your telegram of the 25th April, is not considered desirable by His Majesty's Government.

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[17313]

No. 170.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 21.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 17th May, relative to the riots in Seistan.

*India Office, May 19, 1906.*

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Inclosure in No. 170.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*India Office, May 17, 1906.*

SEISTAN. Please see your telegram of the 11th May, and Grant Duff's telegram of the 5th instant.



[17731]

No. 171 A.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 23.)*

(No. 145.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, May 23, 1906.*

ACCORDING to a telegram from His Majesty's Consul in Seistan, the existence of plague at Jangal, to the north of Birjand, has been established.

[17750]

No. 171 B.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 23.)*

(No. 147.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, May 23, 1906.*

PAYMENT of troops in case of Shah's death.  
Your telegram No. 81.  
10,000*l.* would probably suffice, but it is difficult to estimate sum that would be required.

The following instructions are being sent to Grant Duff regarding affairs in Seistan :—

"As regards the Government of India's proposal that the local rank of Vice-Consul should be granted to Captain Watson, there is no objection, and you may take steps accordingly. As regards moving our troops to Nasratabad, this would be most undesirable, except for the purpose of affording protection. Strength of Persian Government to punish rioters locally, or to deal with further riots which might be provoked by attempt on their part at punishment, seems doubtful. It seems, therefore, advisable to wait till the official mentioned in your telegram of the 21st and further reinforcements arrive. On no account should we become involved in measures of punishment. Moreover, as riots appear from Macpherson's report to have been directed primarily against the officers of the Belgian Customs, we have no wish to incur the whole of the odium involved in punishing the rioters."

[17682]

No. 171.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 23.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 22nd May, relative to the health of the Shah of Persia.

*India Office, May 22, 1906.*

Inclosure in No. 171.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*India Office, May 22, 1906.*

PERSIA. In order to secure fidelity of troops to the Valiahd, the Russian Minister designate to the Persian Court, who was to start yesterday for Tehran, considers that a sum of money should be held at the British and Russian Legations to be spent, should it be necessary, in discharging arrears of pay; also that the Valiahd should at once be brought to Tehran.

These proposals, made in view of the state of the Shah's health, are reported by His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburg, and are engaging the consideration of His Majesty's Government.

[17808]

No. 172.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 24.)*

Sir,

*India Office, May 23, 1906.*

IN reply to Sir E. Gorst's letter of the 17th May, I am directed to express Mr. Secretary Morley's concurrence in Sir E. Grey's proposal to instruct His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran that His Majesty's Legation and Consular officers in Persia should continue to exercise their good offices on behalf of the servants of British subjects, whether such servants are Persians, Bahreinis, Koweitis, Muscatis, &c., but that, unless the persons concerned are British protected persons, action on their part should be limited to good offices. As regards Bahreinis, Sir E. Grey is aware that their status as British protected persons has not yet been admitted by the Persian Government.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[17812]

No. 173.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 24.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 22nd May, relative to a proposed loan to the Valiahd.

*India Office, May 23, 1906.*

Inclosure in No. 173.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*India Office, May 22, 1906.*

SITUATION in Persia. My telegram dated the 22nd May.

It is considered desirable by His Majesty's Government that joint action with Russia should be taken in making a loan to the Valiahd as suggested, immediately on the death of His Majesty the Shah, and that authority should be given to the Imperial Bank to advance, against repayment in London, the British share of the loan to His Imperial Highness. Indian revenues, it is proposed, should furnish the necessary funds, on terms substantially the same as those on which loans through the medium of the Bank have already been made to the Persian Government. It is assumed that, for the immediate requirements of the situation, 100,000L., of which we shall contribute 50,000L., will be adequate, but an estimate of the required amount will be asked for from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran.

Please let me have your views on the subject. Personally, I feel considerable doubt. As to bringing the Valiahd to Tehran, instructions have been conveyed to Mr. Grant Duff that no action should be taken at present.

[17235]

No. 174.

*Foreign Office to India Office.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, May 24, 1906.*

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, and to inform you that he concurs in the opinion of the Secretary of State for India that a second British signaller should be appointed to the telegraph-office at Meshed.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) E. GORST.

[18120]

No. 175.

*Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 28.)*

(No. 353. Secret.)

Sir,

*Constantinople, May 20, 1906.*

IN the course of conversation yesterday with the Persian Ambassador, Prince Mirza Riza Khan, I have the honour to report that his Highness informed me that he attributed the favourable turn which his negotiations with the Porte in regard to the Turco-Persian frontier had latterly taken almost entirely to the Conference which I had suggested holding at his Embassy some time ago with the Russian Ambassador. He had learnt that it had made a great impression, both upon the Sultan and the Porte, and that the satisfactory note which he had received from the Ottoman Government a few days later was due to it. He was most grateful for the invaluable service I had thereby rendered to him and to his Government, and he had not failed to report in this sense to Tehran. His Highness continued to say that he did not think our action in regard to Akaba had had any direct effect on his negotiations, although it had evidently

shown the Sultan the danger of trifling with a question in which His Majesty's Government were even indirectly concerned.

I took the opportunity of asking his Highness whether he believed there was any truth in the report that the German Government contemplated making a pecuniary loan to his Government subject to certain conditions, such as a German college at Tehran, a road concession from Khanikin to Kermanshah, &c.

Prince Mirza Riza Khan replied that he had no knowledge of any such negotiations or of any German loan being on foot. He knew, however, that M. Naus had had, during his two months' visit here, frequent interviews with M. Stemrich, the new German Minister at Tehran, but he had been absolutely silent on the subject to him, and he had no idea of the purport of his conversations with M. Stemrich.

A few days previously I had sounded the Russian Ambassador on the subject, and he had read to me part of a private letter from Count Lamsdorff, stating that the suspicions of the Russian Minister at Tehran had been aroused by M. Naus' attitude of extreme reserve towards him and other Russian officials since his arrival in Tehran. The Minister had heard of a German loan and of its accompanying conditions, but he had not been able to ascertain whether they were correct or not. Count Lamsdorff begged the Ambassador to make careful inquiries with a view to finding out what truth there was in these surmises and rumours, and to let him know the result.

M. Zinoview said that he had means of extracting from Prince Mirza Riza Khan any information he might possess on the subject, and he would let me know the result of his inquiries. His Excellency seemed much concerned at the report, and on the whole inclined to think there might be some foundation for it.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

[18156]

No. 176.

*Mr. Spring-Rice to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 28.)*

(No. 329.)

Sir,

*St. Petersburg, May 24, 1906*

I HAVE the honour to state that M. Izvolsky told me yesterday that the news as regarded the Shah's health was better. There therefore appeared to be no present reason to take serious steps. He said that he had no doubt Mr. Grant Duff had already received instructions to act jointly with his Russian colleague in support of the Vali Ahd's succession to the throne. He had himself sent corresponding instructions to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran. I observed that it might be advisable that the two Legations should have a certain sum at their disposal in order to conciliate the troops, and induce them to maintain their allegiance to the Vali Ahd on the death of the Shah. On the occasion of the present Shah's accession the question of a largesse to the troops had proved a serious one, and it was as well that the two Governments should be prepared to take steps if necessary. He agreed in principle, and said that M. Hartwig, who left yesterday for his post, had spoken to him on the subject. Had I any instructions in regard to the matter? I mentioned the conversation which you had with the Russian Ambassador on the 11th instant, in which you had spoken as to the possibility of a joint loan. He said that he had received a report of this conversation, and that he was quite agreed in principle with the opinions you had expressed, at the same time the information at his disposal was not sufficiently definite to warrant a decision. He had the whole subject under his consideration, and would inform you later when he had been able to master the subject.

He then proceeded to say that the German Ambassador had called upon him to make a communication on the subject of the information published in the "Standard" as to a supposed Anglo-Russian *entente*. Her von Schoen had said that, so far as such an understanding made for the peace of world, Germany could only hail it with satisfaction. With regard to one point only he had an observation to make—this was that part of the published basis of the Agreement which concerned the Bagdad Railway. This was the subject of a Concession granted by the Sultan to the Deutsche Bank, and was therefore specifically a German interest, as to which Germany had every right to be consulted. M. Izvolsky had, he said, immediately telegraphed the substance of this conversation to London in order that it might be *en toute franchise* communicated to you. He regarded the communication as satisfactory, as it showed that Germany had, as a matter of fact, no objection to an *entente* between England and Russia. With regard to the Bagdad Railway, he considered that the contention of Germany was just,

[1647]

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and that German claims ought to be considered. I said that you had never left any room for doubt in all your communications on the subject, or in the communications made through Sir Charles Hardinge, that in seeking an agreement with Russia His Majesty's Government was aiming at an agreement which made for peace, and not an agreement to be directed against the interests of any third Power. With regard to the Bagdad Railway, the question was whether or no Great Britain should participate, in common with France, in the enterprise inaugurated by Germany. We had hitherto refused the German offer to participate mainly because we were not willing, as long as Russia was opposed to the project, to enter into a combination which Russia might regard as an unfriendly act. Should Russia withdraw her objections, we should, in common with France, be more willing to give a favourable answer to the German proposals for financial participation, if in other respects they appeared satisfactory. There was no question of acting in the matter without considering Germany, which, indeed, as the Concession was a German one, was impossible.

M. Izvolsky said that at first sight he thought that the views expressed by you to Count Benckendorff were such as he could recommend to the Emperor, but he was unable to give a definite answer until the competent authorities had been consulted.

I subsequently spoke to the French Ambassador on the subject. His Excellency said that he had not mentioned the matter of the Anglo-Russian negotiations to M. Izvolsky as he thought that it would be wiser to wait until he was more sure of his ground. M. Izvolsky had not spoken to him of the communication made by the German Ambassador. On the subject of the Bagdad Railway he had spoken to M. Izvolsky, Count Witte, and the Director of the General Staff. The former had given a favourable answer in principle, but had reserved a definite reply until he should have consulted the competent authorities. Count Witte had informed him that on reconsideration he had changed his mind with regard to the matter, and was now prepared to recommend Russia to withdraw her opposition. The same answer had been received from the military authorities, who no longer appeared to consider that the construction of the line was injurious to Russia's military interests. M. Bompard said that the Director of the Deutsche Bank at Constantinople had approached Sir Nicholas O'Connor with regard to the participation of English capital, and that he had subsequently proceeded to Paris, where he had made a similar proposal with regard to French participation to the Directors of the Ottoman Bank. It was noticeable, however, that the offers had been solely made with regard to financial participation, and the inducements put forward were solely those incident on the issue of a loan in Paris. Nothing had been said either of the industrial advantages incident on construction, or on political or commercial control, or participation in control.

With regard to the general question M. Bompard made the following remarks: The denial of the intention to offer a loan to Persia, if made by Germany, would correspond exactly to Count Tattenbach's similar denial of the intention to make an advance to Morocco, a denial which did not, as a matter of fact, prevent Germany making an arrangement which was hardly distinguishable from a loan. The steps taken by the Director of the Deutsche Bank pointed to the desire of Germany to obtain French capital, but they also pointed to the desire of Germany to restrict French co-operation to one of a purely financial nature. The Government, however, could not and would not participate without giving due consideration to the general, commercial, and political aspects of the question.

With regard to the question of the observations made by Herr von Schoen as to a *rapprochement* between England and Russia, similar friendly observations had been made as to the *rapprochements* made between Italy and France, between Austria and Russia, and between France and England. But it was not to be denied that in all these cases Germany had been untiring in her efforts to destroy the force of all these agreements, while protesting publicly that she regarded them with favour. M. Bompard therefore considered that, while accepting with satisfaction the friendly sentiments of Germany, the two Governments should not lose sight of the fact that the advice and assistance of Germany would not always and invariably be given with a view to the furtherance of harmony. The two Governments should act for themselves according to their own interests. They should, of course, make it plain that their efforts to come to a mutual agreement did not and could not entail any consequences injurious to any Power which sincerely desired peace. But they should act not through intermediaries, but directly, unless they were anxious to pay somewhat heavy brokerage.

He pointed out further that, as regards the Bagdad Railway, it was not advisable that the three Powers (France, England, and Russia) should act separately, by separate

[18374]

No. 177\*.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 29.)*

Sir, *India Office, May 28, 1906.*  
I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to acknowledge the receipt of Sir E. Gorst's letter of the 24th instant, as to an advance to the Valiahd in the event of the present Shah's death, and to inclose, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of telegraphic correspondence with the Government of India on the subject.

Sir Edward Grey will observe that Mr. Morley, in his telegram to the Viceroy, stated that personally he was very doubtful of the desirability of the course proposed. Mr. Morley will consider the matter further in connection with the views expressed by the Government of India, and at once communicate with Sir E. Grey.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 177\*.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, May 22, 1906.*

SITUATION in Persia: My telegram dated the 22nd May.

It is considered desirable by His Majesty's Government that joint action with Russia should be taken in making a loan to the Valiahd as suggested, immediately on the death of His Majesty the Shah, and that authority should be given to the Imperial Bank to advance, against repayment in London, the British share of the loan to His Imperial Highness. Indian revenues it is proposed should furnish the necessary funds on terms substantially the same as those on which loans through the medium of the bank have already been made to the Persian Government. It is assumed that for the immediate requirements of the situation 100,000*l.*, of which we shall contribute 50,000*l.*, will be adequate, but an estimate of the required amount will be asked for from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran. Please let me have your views on the subject. Personally, I feel considerable doubt. As to bringing the Valiahd to Tehran, instructions have been conveyed to Mr. Grant Duff that no action should be taken at present.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 177\*.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P. *May 26, 1906.*

PERSIA: Question of loan to Valiahd. Your telegram dated the 22nd instant.

Anarchy in Persia would, without doubt, have a serious effect upon India, and we are prepared to lend, on the same conditions as previous loans, a further 50,000*l.*, if a small advance immediately on the Shah's death is considered by His Majesty's Government necessary to prevent such a contingency. At the same time we adhere, after discussing the matter in Council, to the opinion expressed in the Viceroy's telegrams dated 22nd December, 1905, and 9th January last. We think that, in the event of the accession of the Valiahd, whose pro-Russian tendencies have always been reported to be strong, instructions should be sent to Tehran Legation to utilize the authority given to advance to the new Ruler the money sanctioned, in such a manner as to secure for the benefit of Indian interests in Persia the best possible conditions.

(Repeated to Tehran.)

[1647]

2 M\*

and independent negotiations, with Germany. They should act as a unit, and if they did so the terms obtained would be better. For this purpose it was most necessary that they should come to a common understanding as soon as possible. This he said, not with any hostile feeling towards Germany, but from the purely business point of view.

He added that, although, as he had told me, he had not thought it advisable as yet to speak on the subject of Anglo-Russian relations, which he had abstained from doing, because he was not yet sufficiently clear as to the policy which would be pursued by the new Government, and because in principle he thought it was better that Russia and England should fight out their battle by themselves, on the ground of their own private interests and without foreign interference, yet His Majesty's Embassy might rest assured that they might count on the friendly and willing co-operation of their French colleagues in case any question of friction should arise which could be usefully *aplani* by the offices of a mutual friend. I said I was sure that in the future, as in the past, his friendly offices would be appealed to if the occasion arose.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) CECIL SPRING-RICE.

[18579]

No. 177.

*Question asked in the House of Lords, May 28, 1906.*

*The Lord Reay*,—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he can give any information in regard to the settlement of the frontier dispute between Turkey and Persia near Vazneh and Suj-Bula.

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*Answer.*

A dispute had arisen between Persia and Turkey in regard to the boundary in the neighbourhood of the places mentioned by his noble friend in the Kurd districts on the borders of those two countries. Negotiations were now proceeding, and there was every reason to believe that an amicable settlement of the question would be arrived at. His Majesty's Government understood that the question would now be decided locally between the two Governments, and they had received information that a Persian Commissioner had left to meet the Turkish Commissioner on the frontier. This, evidently, was the most desirable solution. The question had been treated at Constantinople, and the Persian Ambassador there had had the benefit of receiving advice from the British and Russian Ambassadors in regard to the matter. In 1851 Lord Palmerston proposed that the general line of frontier between Turkey and Persia should be traced by the Agents of those two Powers at Constantinople, assisted by Commissioners, in conformity with the stipulations of the Treaty of Erzeroun of 1847-48, leaving doubtful localities to be settled in detail in the future. The Russian Government agreed to this proposal, and the work of surveying the country from Mount Ararat to the Persian Gulf was then commenced. When this was done, the preparation of a map of the Turco-Persian frontier, embracing territory 700 miles in length by from 20 to 40 miles broad, was put in hand. This work lasted from November 1857 to March 1865, and would doubtless be the basis of the present settlement.

[18411]

No. 178.

*The Persian Transport Company to Foreign Office.—(Received May 29.)*

*3, Salter's Hall Court, Cannon Street, London,*

Sir, *May 28, 1906.*

WITH reference to the call which Lieutenant-Colonel Picot made at the Foreign Office to-day, I have the honour to inclose the following documents:—

1. Copy of a letter from our agent at Ispahan, dated the 24th April, having reference to a request made to him by the Bakhtiari Chiefs for a loan of money; and
2. Copy of a telegram received from our agent at Tehran, dated the 23rd instant.



We consider that any loan made to the Bakhtiari Chiefs should be accompanied by the following conditions:—

1. It should be in the nature of a first mortgage on the revenues received from the road, but it should also be guaranteed by the Chiefs jointly and severally on their personal possessions. The latter part of the condition is necessitated by the consideration that, should they not have provided any guarantee on their personal property, they would not have the same interest in the maintenance of the road and the revenues arising therefrom. They could say, in case the road were to fall into disuse, that the loan was only a loan on road revenues, and that the makers of it had provided the money knowing this, and with their eyes open. If, on the other hand, they give their personal property as a collateral pledge, they have every reason to maintain the road and its revenues.

We gather from the letter and telegram that the Chiefs are not indisposed to give guarantees of this nature.

2. Inasmuch as the road is at present badly in need of repair, it should be a consideration attached to the loan that a portion of it, not less than 50,000 krans, or, say, 840/., which is a minimum, should be devoted to the immediate repair of the road. It should also be provided that, after this sum had been expended, the Chiefs should undertake to come to an arrangement with our Company under which we should be authorized to keep the road in repair for them, in so far as that could be done for a yearly sum to be afterwards arrived at with us through the good offices of His Majesty's Legation. It is scarcely possible to estimate the sum at the present moment before the road has been placed in normal repair.

We should like to know the views of His Majesty's Government in respect of the proposals of the Chiefs. There can be no doubt that the present is an excellent opportunity, not only for further securing the good-will of these Chiefs, in whose hands is placed such an important trade route for British and Indian goods, but also for obtaining the security for the upkeep of the road which His Majesty's Legation in Tehran have so long, and hitherto so fruitlessly, been endeavouring to obtain. It would obviously not be possible for us, as a private industrial Company, to advance the money except it were collaterally guaranteed by the Persian Government on good security, such as the customs of Ahwas and Mohammerah. In that case, this Company might obtain the necessary funds from the Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company. On the other hand, His Majesty's Government might consider that it would be unwise to bring the Persian Government too closely into this transaction. If so, would His Majesty's Government be prepared either to advance the money or give us a guarantee?

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANK BOTTOMLEY, *Secretary*.

Inclosure 1 in No. 178.

*Messrs. Lynch Brothers to the Persian Transport Company.*

*Ispahan, April 24, 1906.*

DURING the recent interview with the Bakhtiari Chiefs, both the Sardar and the Mouin Homyun expressed their intention of putting a proposal forward to you for a loan of 500,000 krans (8,400/.), which if it is taken up by you will be repayable in a period of three to five years. The road revenue will be the security, and the rate of interest suggested 8 per cent. per annum. The loan will be taken up by the Concession holders of the road, and will be repaid partly out of their own personal resources and partly out of the tolls. It will be applied for with the permission of the Persian Government.

What the Sardar told me here about this loan was merely a preliminary intimation, which he asked me to forward to you; but further and proper negotiations will be made after he has seen the other Chiefs in Tehran, and also after consultation with the Government. I have pointed out that, should they definitely decide to apply to us for the loan, they will have to see Mr. Malleon, to forward to you their proposal, stating terms, &c. But before their arrival in Tehran I am afraid this news will have reached St. Petersburg, and the Russians in Tehran will be on the move against it; because, when the two Khans were talking on the subject, among the people present there was a Representative from the Russian Consulate, and unfortunately before I could reach the Sardar to warn him he had revealed the matter.

Inclosure 2 in No. 178.

*Messrs. Lynch Brothers to the Persian Transport Company.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tehran, May 23, 1906.*

AS per your letter of the 3rd May, the Bakhtiari shares are not registered at the British Legation. Chiefs desire a telegram in answer to our Ispahan agent's letter dated the 24th April. All participators in the road revenue will sign mortgage, jointly and severally responsible for repayment. It is proposed to repay 150,000 krans annually, first payment twelve months after loan; 8 per cent. per annum interest.

[18453]

No. 179.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 29.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 25th May, relative to the posting of an additional signaller to Meshed.

*India Office, May 29, 1906.*

Inclosure in No. 179.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*India Office, May 25, 1906.*

I HAVE approved the appointment of the additional signaller for Meshed, proposed in your telegram dated the 15th May; two signallers of the Indo-European Telegraph Department are due to arrive shortly at Tehran, and arrangements will be made here to send one of them, who will be available for the purpose, to Meshed.

[17808]

No. 180.

*Sir Edward Grey to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 86.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, May 29, 1906.*

I HAVE considered, in communication with the Secretary of State for India, your despatch No. 72 of the 25th March last, regarding the question whether Persian subjects and Bahreinis, Koweitis, &c., in the employ of British subjects resident in Persia are entitled to the good offices of His Majesty's Consular officers in that country.

I have to inform you, in reply, that His Majesty's Legation and His Majesty's Consular officers in Persia should continue to exercise their good offices on behalf of the servants of British subjects, whether such servants are Persians, Bahreinis, Koweitis, Muscatis, &c., but that unless the persons concerned are British protected persons, action of their behalf should be limited to good offices.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

[1647]

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[16409]

No. 181.

*Sir Edward Grey to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 87.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 1, 1906.*  
I HAVE received your despatch No. 97 of the 21st April last, relative to the proposed Luristan trade route.

I have considered the matter in communication with the Secretary of State for India, and it has been decided that the proposal should not be taken up for the present.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

[19071]

No. 182.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 2.)*

(No. 150.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, June 2, 1906.*

IF their demands are not granted by next Monday the Mollahs threaten to organize a general riot for that day. Precautions are being taken by the Persian Government.

There are rumours that the Shah's health is worse, and the Palace has been closed to-day, even to the Ministers.

[17697]

No. 183.

*Sir Edward Grey to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 82.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, June 2, 1906.*

YOUR telegram No. 126 respecting the Bahktiari road.

According to Morbon's report the condition of the road is bad, but it is uncertain whether this is owing to faultiness in construction or subsequent neglect. While the Chiefs are still at Tehran you should, if possible, obtain a settlement of outstanding questions between them and the Transport Company, such as accounts and repairs. The agent of the Company at Tehran is in full possession of their views, and you might act in communication with him.

[18411]

No. 184.

*Foreign Office to Persian Transport Company.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, June 5, 1906.*

I HAVE laid before Secretary Sir E. Grey your letter of the 28th ultimo, respecting the request addressed by the Bakhtiari Chiefs to the Persian Transport Company for an advance of 500,000 krans.

I am to state, in reply, that your suggestions have received careful consideration, but that Sir E. Grey regrets that it would be impossible for His Majesty's Government either to make or to guarantee a loan of the nature proposed.

Sir E. Grey is, moreover, inclined to think that such a loan lies rather within the province of the Imperial Bank of Persia than of the Transport Company, and I am to suggest, for your consideration, that if the Chiefs require money, and offer satisfactory terms and security, they will, no doubt, have no difficulty in coming to an arrangement with the Imperial Bank on a business footing.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) E. GORST.

[19451]

No. 185.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 6.)*

(No. 151.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, June 6, 1906.*

SITUATION in Tehran.

My telegram No. 150.

So far there has been no disturbance here, but violent sermons are being preached against the Grand Vizier, who, the Mushir-ed-Dowleh tells me, wishes to resign his post.

Although the Shah is better he is still unable to transact business, and the condition of the country becomes worse from day to day.

From a reliable source I hear that the conspiracy mentioned in my despatch No. 114 actually does exist, but that, owing to the unpopularity of the persons concerned, it is not likely to succeed.

[19795]

No. 186.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 9.)*

Sir,

*India Office, June 9, 1906.*

WITH reference to my letter of the 28th ultimo as to an advance to the Valiahd in the event of the death of the present Shah, I am directed to state that the Secretary of State for India has considered the views expressed in the telegram from the Government of India of the 26th ultimo.

Mr. Morley does not discover much difference in principle between the refusal to make a loan to Persia, as settled by His Majesty's Government in January last, and the proposal now suggested.

No doubt the consequences of allowing the succession to the Persian Throne to take place under the exclusive auspices of a third Power might possibly be disadvantageous to India, and, as the amount required would be comparatively trifling, Mr. Morley would not object, if the Council of India should give the necessary sanction, to advance from Indian revenues, in accordance with the proposal in the Foreign Office Memorandum of the 29th April, a sum not exceeding 50,000*l.*, for the purposes of a loan to the Valiahd through the Imperial Bank.

The conditions of the loan will, it is understood, be substantially the same as those governing the two loans already made to Persia through the Bank, and His Majesty's Government will undertake to make good to the Indian Government the half of any loss that may be incurred on the transaction, in respect either of interest or capital.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

[19812]

No. 187.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 11.)*

(No. 125.)

Sir,

*Tehran, May 1, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a copy of a despatch addressed to the Government of India by His Majesty's Consul-General at Meshed, regarding a tour which he proposes to make next September on the Khorassan frontier.

There is, in my opinion, little doubt that such a tour made by a British Consular officer would not be favourably viewed by the Russian Government. The advisability of sanctioning Major Sykes' tour will therefore principally depend on whether or not any real progress is being made, or is likely to be made, with the attempt on the part of His Majesty's Government to come to an agreement with Russia on Persian questions. There is, so far as I can judge, no sign at present of any disposition on the part of Russia to relax her efforts to secure a predominant position in the country, although her domestic troubles have perhaps rendered her policy less openly aggressive during the last two years. The following facts seem to show that her policy in Persia is unchanged:—

1. The recent foundation of a Consulate at Bunder Abbas, where there is no Russian trade, and where are probably no Russian subjects.

2. The organized attempt during the last few weeks on the part of the Banque d'Escompte to break the Imperial Bank of Persia at Tehran, Ispahan, 'Tabreez, and Yezd. It will not be lost sight of that the Banque d'Escompte is a Russian Government institution, and not a commercial enterprise.

3. The Russian Consulate in Seistan is certainly trying to make political capital out of the prevailing plague epidemic.

4. The Russian Government has recently appointed a notorious Anglophobe and intriguer, M. Miller, of Seistan notoriety, to the post of Chief Dragoman at their Legation here.

5. The part played by the Russian Government in persuading the Persian Government to reject Colonel McMahon's Water Award. I know from trustworthy sources that the Russian Legation are continuing to exercise the suspicion of the Persian Government as to the designs of His Majesty's Government in Seistan.

The above evidence would appear to show that up to the present time no instructions have been issued by the Russian Government to their officials in Persia to assume a more conciliatory attitude. It is, however, fair to say that the whole staff of the Russian Legation, except M. Miller, has been or is about to be changed, and this may possibly be the prelude of a less aggressive policy.

Major Sykes' tour would not be undertaken till the autumn, and before that time much may happen; but it is doubtless desirable that we should obtain fuller information as to affairs on the Khorasan frontier, and should no evident change take place in Russian policy before the autumn there would appear to be no particular reason for consulting the susceptibilities of a Government which shows no sign of wishing to meet our friendly advances.

As regards Astrabad, the town is properly in the district of His Majesty's Consul at Resht; but as the present Acting Vice-Consul is only indirectly in the employ of His Majesty's Government, Major Sykes might include a visit there in his tour.

I would, however, express the hope that the appointment of an efficient Consul at Resht will not be much longer delayed.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 187.

*Major Sykes to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 12.)  
Sir,

*Meshed, April 20, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your information, a copy of my letter No. 83, dated the 20th April, 1906, which I have forwarded to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, on the subject of my proposed tour on the Perso-Russian frontier.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) P. MOLESWORTH SYKES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 187.

*Major Sykes to Government of India.*

(No. 83. Confidential.)  
Sir,

*Meshed, April 20, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to address you on the subject of touring, more especially along the frontiers of Khorasan. When Sir Arthur Hardinge was at Meshed, I discussed this question with him, and he expressed the opinion that touring was extremely important, and that it was desirable to visit the Perso-Russian frontier as well as other portions of this Consular district. I anticipate that the Legation will continue to hold the same general views on this subject; but I am raising it now to give time for the Government of India to exchange views on this matter if they think fit to do so.

In his No. 199 of the 9th September, 1905, to the Marquess of Lansdowne, Sir A. Hardinge expressed a decided opinion as to the advisability of Astrabad being visited occasionally from this Consulate-General, as the Honorary Consul is the

Manager of the Imperial Bank of Persia at Resht, and naturally cannot visit this portion of his district, where, however, there are a few British protégés. I have also reported frequent visits of Russian officials to Bujnurd and to the Goklan and Yamut country; and there is, moreover, the present position of the Gunbad-i-Kabus Commission. In short, it seems desirable to take stock of affairs in this part of Persia before they develop any more.

Just now Russia is mainly occupied with holding her own, and as my relations both at Askhabad, where I know the Governor-General, and in Khorasan are extremely friendly, the circumstances are particularly favourable for such a tour. Moreover, my love of travel and archæology is well known to them. This favourable state of affairs may, however, not last, and it seems to me desirable to take advantage of the present opportunity to visit Bujnurd and the district to the west, where no Consul-General has toured for many years. I understand that the desirability of this tour has been agreed upon, and it consequently remains for me to make proposals.

Briefly, I propose that, in early September, I should tour to Bujnurd, where I have known the family of the Ilkhani for thirteen years. I should propose then to follow down the River Gurgan to Astrabad. From Astrabad I should proceed to Bander Gaz, and thence to Meshed by steamer and rail, leaving the camp to follow the longer route via Shahrud and Sabzawar. I should propose to take Captain Watson with me, as I understand that he is applying for leave at that time. In any case, whether he goes on leave or not, this would be the most suitable arrangement, as the Agency surgeon would be acting for me during my absence from Meshed.

The advantages of this tour are manifold, and include a certain political result and an increase of knowledge of the country which is always desirable. At the same time I should be most careful to avoid doing anything that would arouse the susceptibilities of the Russians. More than this, it is extremely desirable to note the position of Russia on this frontier, and, finally, up-to-date Gazetteer information, which is being demanded by the Intelligence Branch, could be secured. By touring at this season I should be able to visit the Afghan frontier in the early spring of 1907, which is in many ways the best time of the year for such a tour. The cost would be considerably reduced if I were able to make use of some of the mules belonging to the Turbat Consulate.

In conclusion, events may occur which would render this tour inadvisable; but if everything is normal in Khorasan, I hope it may be sanctioned.

A copy of this letter is being sent to His Majesty's Legation at Tehran.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) P. MOLESWORTH SYKES.

[19817]

No. 188.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 11.)*

(No. 131. Confidential.)  
Sir,

*Tehran, May 20, 1906.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 41 of the 12th March last, I have the honour to report that, in company with Mr. Malleon, Messrs. Lynch's agent at Tehran, I was present at a meeting held yesterday at the house of the Samsam-es-Saltaneh, to discuss various questions connected with the road from Ispahan to Ahwaz.

As I had the honour to state in my despatch No. 129 of the 18th instant, the Bakhtiari Khans made up their quarrels, and the Serdar Assad (Haji Kuli Khan) told me, in the presence of the other Chiefs now here, that he had resigned the Ilkhaniship in favour of the Samsam-es-Saltaneh, who till recently held that position.

There were present at the meeting of the 19th instant:—

The Samsam-es-Saltaneh, Ilkhani.  
The Serdar Assad.  
The Shahab-es-Saltaneh, Ilbegi.  
The Moin-i-Homayun.

I regret to say that the Chiefs made no secret of their dislike of Messrs. Lynch. Fortunately Mr. Malleon understands Persian very slightly, and did not realize the very uncomplimentary references made by Bakhtiari Khans to his principals and their methods of business. I found it throughout the meeting very difficult to induce the Serdar Assad, who acted as spokesman, to discuss the various points in a calm and businesslike manner.

[1647]



He maintains that the accounts of the road given to His Majesty's Government by Messrs. Lynch are exaggerated, and that it was even now in at least as good a state as when it was handed over to the tribe. On behalf of the Chiefs he declared that they were quite prepared to abide by the decision of a British Consular officer, who could easily judge whether the road was a reasonably good caravan track. As regards the bridges he said that the yearly examination and repair was, in this climate, an absurd and unnecessary expense. He added that Messrs. Lynch had only twice sent an engineer to examine and paint them, and that on both occasions the charges had been duly paid by the Chiefs against receipts which they held. This statement, I would observe, does not tally with the evidence furnished by Messrs. Lynch (see their letter to the Foreign Office of the 29th November, 1905), and I have requested Mr. Malleon to make inquiries on this point from his agent at Ispahan. You will also perceive that in Inclosure 3 of Sir Arthur Hardinge's despatch No. 17, Confidential, of the 31st January, 1905, Mr. Preece admits that he received 60*l.* from the Chiefs towards repairing the bridges in 1902. This sum would appear not to have reached Messrs. Lynch Bros., and I would suggest that Mr. Preece, who is, I believe, in England, should be asked to state to whom he remitted the money in question. I agree with Mr. Preece that the charges made by Messrs. Lynch for painting and repairing the bridges in 1903 and 1904 seem exorbitant. In view of the present temper of the Chiefs it would, I think, be useless to present the accounts for those years, and in the absence of instructions from you to the contrary I do not propose to do so. The Khans unanimously declare that Mr. Preece made a verbal agreement with them that the bridges should be painted once only in three years. I am not aware if their statements are correct, but Mr. Malleon knows nothing of such an arrangement, and is confident that it was never sanctioned by his firm.

I tried to obtain a renewal of the offer made to pay Messrs. Lynch 3,000 tomans down and 1,000 tomans yearly for the upkeep of the road (see Sir Arthur Hardinge's despatch No. 17 of the 31st January, 1905, Inclosure 2), but the Chiefs positively declined to accept these terms. After nearly three hours' discussion, the following proposals were made by the Serdar Assad on behalf of the Chiefs:—

1. The Bakhtiari Khans earnestly desire that Messrs. Lynch shall agree to sever his connection with them and with their road. If the firm consent to this, all their legitimate claims will be at once paid in cash through His Majesty's Legation.
2. If Messrs. Lynch decline to cancel the Agreement of 1898 with the Chiefs, the former shall send an engineer once in two years to examine and, if necessary, paint and repair the two bridges. The cost of such examination, painting, and repairing is to be settled beforehand. If the estimate presented by Messrs. Lynch is not accepted by the Chiefs, the latter will be at liberty to obtain estimates for the required work from other British engineers.
3. The Chiefs agree to build two caravanserais this year and two next year at those places at which such accommodation is most required. Those existing caravanserais which are found to be in a bad condition will be repaired this year on the return of the Khans to their country.
4. When the repairs now being carried on at various points on the road are completed, His Majesty's Legation will be notified, and the Chiefs hope that a British Consular officer may be instructed to inspect the road from Ahwaz to Ispahan. If the said Consul then finds the road in need of further repair, the Chiefs will accept his decision.

As regards the first proposal, I pointed out that Messrs. Lynch had been the pioneers of the Karun route, and that it was hardly likely that they would consent to annul their Agreement with the Chiefs. Mr. Malleon seemed, indeed, to think that the firm would consider such a step the prelude to their closing down their business in Persia. I do not quite see why this should be the case, as there would be nothing to prevent the firm from making use of the road, and their caravans would be just as safe—or as unsafe—as before. They would also have recovered the balance of the capital expended on the track. To my remark the Serdar Assad replied violently that if Messrs. Lynch removed their business from Persia there would be universal rejoicing, and that no one would be so delighted as the Bakhtiaris. The other Chiefs said, "Inshallah! let him go!"

I wish clearly to bring out the fact that the Bakhtiaris, rightly or wrongly, distrust Messrs. Lynch. If they decline to agree to the terms proposed by the firm, or to pay the claims preferred on account of the repair of the bridges, there is no way of coercing them, even if it were desirable to do so. In these circumstances I can only recommend

the firm, either to relinquish the whole enterprise, or to do what they can to remove the unfortunate impression they or their employés have made by accepting some arrangement based on the above proposals. It is clear, I think, that under Article 4 of the Agreement of 1898 the Chiefs have the right to repair the road, and in their present frame of mind they are unlikely to assent to any arrangement which would deprive them of the control of its upkeep.

As regards proposal No. 2, I am hardly surprised that the Chiefs should wish to have further estimates, in view of the accounts sent in by Messrs. Lynch for repairing the bridges—notably the charge made in 1904.

Proposal 3 is to the interest of both parties, and cannot, I presume, be objected to.

Proposal 4 is almost essential. It would appear to be the only way to obtain an impartial opinion as to the true state of the road. Major Morton's report, which has no doubt by this time reached you from India, unfortunately throws little light on the question at issue.

In these circumstances I would suggest that His Majesty's Consul at Ahwaz should be instructed to inspect the road as soon as possible after the Chiefs have notified His Majesty's Legation that the promised repairs are completed. Captain Lorimer would be able to pronounce definitely as to the condition of the track, and might also be requested to give his views as to whether it is really necessary to spend a considerable sum yearly on the repair, &c., of the bridges. This latter point may, however, be one on which an expert opinion would alone be of value.

I am confident that the Khans, who are most friendly to His Majesty's Legation, would carry out their promise to abide by the decision of a British Consular officer. But they fairly loathe Messrs. Lynch, and it would be to the interest of the firm to be conciliatory, even if this entails the loss of a few hundred pounds.

The Khans are masters of the road, and Messrs. Lynch would do well to remember it.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

[19820]

No. 189.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 11.)*

(No. 134.)

Sir,

*Tehran, May 21, 1906.*

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your telegram No. 67 of the 26th April, I addressed the note, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, to the Persian Government, stating that, in view of the present disturbed condition of various districts adjoining the Perso-Turkish frontier, His Majesty's Government would hold them responsible for the lives and property of British subjects in Azerbaijan, Kurdistan, Kermanshah, and generally along the western border. The Mushir-ed-Dowleh's reply, a translation of which is forwarded herewith, is of characteristic fatuity. After stating that the Persian Government has always taken immediate and energetic measures to put an end to any "unexpected incident on the frontier," a statement which is quite untrue, his Excellency proceeds to propose that, if "there is any possibility of inconvenience at this moment for the Mission," I should instruct them to come provisionally to Tabreez. He further states that the Persian Government cannot in any way be held responsible.

I have not replied to his Excellency's note, beyond informing him verbally that the Archbishop of Canterbury's Mission cannot be expected to go to Tabreez, which would involve a long and expensive journey to a town in which they have no residence. I added that the Persian Government will certainly be expected by His Majesty's Government to furnish them with adequate protection at Urmi, and that his Excellency's note in no way relieved him of the responsibility of affording such protection.

His Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez reports that, according to information received from Urmi, the Turks have taken complete possession of the districts of Dasht and Mergawar. Mr. Wratishaw also states that the Turkish Vice-Consul at Urmi has assumed charge of the Christian inhabitants of Mawana, completely ignoring the Persian authorities, and has even gone so far as to fine some of them. Turkish soldiers, fully armed, recently visited Urmi, and the Governor of that town has been warned to



cease levying taxes along the frontier. The Turks would appear at present to be treating the Christians very kindly, and seem anxious to create a good impression. They show, however, little consideration for the Kurds.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 189.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Mushir-ed-Dowleh.*

*April 27, 1906.*

REPORTS have reached His Majesty's Government that the Kurdish tribes are ravaging the district between Urmi and Soujboulak and that considerable unrest exists all along the neighbouring frontier.

As your Excellency is aware, Urmi is the head-quarters of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Mission to the Nestorians, and, should the present strained relations between the Government of His Majesty the Shah and the Sublime Porte unhappily continue, it is not impossible that the British missionaries may be exposed to danger from the lawless tribes of that region.

In these circumstances, I am instructed by His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to warn the Persian Government that they will be held responsible for the lives and property of British subjects in Azerbaijan, Kurdistan, Kermanshah, and generally along the Perso-Turkish frontier.

Inclosure 2 in No. 189.

*Mushir-ed-Dowleh to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

*May 3, 1906.*

(Translation.)

IN reply to your note of the 27th ultimo respecting the Kurds ravaging the district between Urmi and Soujboulak, and in answer to your statement that the Persian Government will be considered responsible for any inconvenience or danger to the Archbishop of Canterbury's Mission, I have the honour to state that, as you are aware, whenever there has been any unexpected incident on the frontier or in the interior, the Persian Government has always taken immediate and energetic measures to put an end to it, and I have never failed, and will never fail, to maintain peace and harmony for the subjects of friendly Powers. It is evident that, in spite of all such measures, the Persian Government cannot in any way be held responsible. If you believe that there is any possibility of inconvenience at this moment for the Mission in question, you will kindly instruct them to come provisionally to Tabreez, and return to the place when they are satisfied of its security.

[19821]

No. 190.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 11.)*

(No. 135. Secret.)  
Sir,

*Tehran, May 21, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a translation of a contract recently signed between the Persian Government and the contractor of the Caspian Sea fisheries by which the latter agrees to pay in advance under discount the royalties due for 1907, 1908, and 1909; the royalty for 1910 next 13th December, and that for 1911 on the 28th April, 1908.

It seems clear that by the present discount operation the Persian Government have infringed the Agreement signed on the 4th April, 1903, for the advance of 200,000/ by the Imperial Bank (see Sir A. Hardinge's despatch No. 49, Secret, of the 14th April, 1903). In that Agreement it is stated as follows:—

“Le Gouvernement Persan s'engage à rembourser la dite avance à l'Imperial Bank en vingt années, capital et intérêts, au moyen du produit des redevances qui lui sont dues pour les pêcheries de la Mer Caspienne.”

In a recent interview I had with the Grand Vizier, I drew his Highness' attention to the infringement of the Agreement signed with the Imperial Bank of Persia by his predecessor and M. Naus. His Highness, who is very ignorant as regards European methods of business, replied that it was true that the Persian Government had lately raised money on the Caspian fisheries, but that he failed to see in what way this concerned His Majesty's Government, provided that the interest on their loan through the Bank was duly paid. To this I answered that it was of the non-payment of the interest on the British loan that I complained. Out of the 23,270/ 7s. due on the 4th ultimo, only 5,500/ had as yet been received by the Imperial Bank of Persia.

His Highness promised at once to see to the matter, but the balance due has not yet been paid to Mr. Rabino.

I inclose, for convenience of reference, a Memorandum on the Caspian fisheries by Mr. George Churchill.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 190.

*Caspian Sea Fisheries Contract.*

(Translation.)

THE Undersigned, the Sadr Azam of His Imperial Majesty the Shah, His Highness Prince Sultan Abdul Majid Mirza, Ain-ed-Dowleh, Atabeg-i-Azam, and Petro Petrovitch, the agent of the heirs of George Stepanovitch Lianozoff, possessing plenary powers, have made the following contract:—

Article 1. The heirs of George Stepanovitch Lianozoff undertake, in accordance with the desire of the Persian Government, to pay in advance the royalties for the waters in which they have the right to fish, as follows:—

(a.) To pay on the 28th April, 1906, the royalties due for the years 1907, 1908, and 1909 which amount to 1,380,000 fr. after deducting interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum.

(b.) To pay on account of the royalties for the year 1910 the sum of 460,000 fr. on the 13th December, 1906.

(c.) To pay on account of the royalties for the year 1911 the sum of 460,000 fr. on the 21st April, 1908, deducting on each occasion 6 per cent. per annum interest.

Art. 2. On the other hand, as the Persian Government has always shown good will towards the commercial undertaking of the heirs of Lianozoff, and not desiring now to place any obstacles in their way and in order to make clear and amplify the contracts of the 25th September, 1893, in the name of Stepan Lianozoff for the period of twenty years, and of the 10th October, 1896, in the name of George Lianozoff for another five years, the Persian Government, by the present contract, undertake not to cancel the above-mentioned contracts without the consent of the heirs of George Lianozoff.

Art. 3. The Persian Government confirms all the rights accorded to the heirs of George Stepanovitch Lianozoff by Article 4 of the contracts concluded on the 25th September, 1903.

Art. 4. The heirs of George Stepanovitch Lianozoff hereby declare their willingness to pay from the 1st October, 1906, for the “Sudak” caught in the “Murdab” lagoon, at the rate of 70 krans per 100 fish instead of 50 krans as heretofore.

The heirs of George Stepanovitch Lianozoff being very grateful for the good-will extended by the Persian Government to their enterprise and for the fulfilment by the latter of the conditions of the contract concluded between them as shown by the present undertaking, they seize the opportunity to thank the Persian Government, and express their hope that these favours should not be withdrawn from them in the future.

[1617]

2 P

Done in duplicate.

(In the Shah's hand-writing.) The contract was written in the year 1324 in the Gulistan Garden, and is correct.

(Signature of the Atabeg-i-Azam.)

Registered at the Persian Foreign Office.

(Signed and sealed by the Mushir-ed-Dowleh.)

(Signed at the Russian Legation.)

Tehran, April 12, 1906.

Inclosure 2 in No. 190.

*Memorandum respecting the Caspian Sea Fisheries Contract.*

THE Caspian Sea fisheries were originally leased to M. Lianozoff, a Russian subject, in 1888 for twelve years at 60,000 tomans (or roughly 17,000*l.*) a-year. The second lease extended the contract for another ten years at the equivalent of about 18,000*l.* a-year, which was subsequently prolonged for a further period of ten years. The third contract again extended the lease for five years, and the fourth contract, discounting the royalties, confirmed the provisions of the previous ones.

Copies of the second and third contracts were inclosed in Sir A. Hardinge's despatch No. 23, Confidential, of the 22nd February, 1903, and a copy of the fourth contract is attached herewith.

The present discount operation is as follows:—

It is agreed by the contractor to pay the royalties for 1907, 1908, and 1909, in advance under discount on the 28th April, 1906, the royalty for 1910 on the 13th December, 1906, and for 1911 on the 28th April, 1908, as follows:—

						Amount.
						£
1907.	18,400 <i>l.</i> ,	less 6 per cent. for 1 year	..	..	..	17,296
1908.	18,100 <i>l.</i> ,	„ 6 „ 2 years	..	..	..	16,192
1909.	18,400 <i>l.</i> ,	„ 6 „ 3 „	..	..	..	15,088
Payable April 28, 1906.						18,576
1910.	18,100 <i>l.</i> ,	less 6 per cent. for 4 years	..	..	..	13,981
Payable December 13, 1906.						
1911.	18,400 <i>l.</i> ,	less 6 per cent. for 3 years	..	..	..	15,088
Payable April 28, 1908.						

It is quite clear that the Persian Government have, by the present discount operation, infringed their Agreement with the Imperial Bank of Persia (but in reality with His Majesty's Government) dated the 4th April, 1903, by which they engaged themselves to repay the English advance of 200,000*l.* capital and interest during the course of twenty years out of the proceeds of the royalties of the Caspian fisheries.

(Signed) G. P. CHURCHILL.

[19826]

No. 191.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 11.)*

(No. 140.)

Sir,

Tehran, May 22, 1906.

IN my despatch No. 121 of the 25th ultimo I had the honour to report that I had promised to send the Mushir-ed-Dowleh a list of the outstanding questions and claims, the settlement of which was desired by His Majesty's Legation. I now inclose a copy of my note on the subject to the Persian Government.

The Mushir-ed-Dowleh has verbally informed me that a special Mamur has been appointed by the Shah to deal with all British claims in Persia. This official will leave Tehran at an early date, and, beginning at Kum, will proceed south to Ispahan, Shiraz, and Bushire.

I can only trust that his labours may be attended with some result.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 191.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Mushir-ed-Dowleh.*

May 1, 1906.

I RECENTLY called your Excellency's attention to the fact that, in spite of constant representations by His Majesty's Legation, practically not a single British claim has been settled during the last two years by the Persian Government. I also had the honour to point out that the attitude of the Persian Government, with regard to various outstanding questions, was hardly in accordance with that friendship which has so long and so happily existed between His Majesty's Government and the Government of His Majesty the Shah.

Your Excellency requested me to furnish you with lists of the claims and questions which His Majesty's Government desire the Persian Government to settle, and I hasten to comply with your wish.

As the claims and questions referred to have all been repeatedly brought to your Excellency's notice, both in writing and verbally, I have not thought it necessary to weary you by a repetition of details, and in the inclosed list I have merely given the headings of the more important cases.

I need hardly say that it would be a matter of great satisfaction to me if I were able at an early date to report to His Majesty's Government that, at all events, a reasonable proportion of these long outstanding questions had been finally settled.

Inclosure 2 in No. 191.

*The Principal Outstanding Claims preferred by His Majesty's Legation against the Persian Government.*

1. Fifty-six claims in the district of His Majesty's Consul-General at Bushire. A full list of these was contained in Mr. Grant Duff's note to the Persian Government of the 27th September, 1905; but each claim has at various times been repeatedly and separately brought to the notice of the Mushir-ed-Dowleh. The total amount claimed under this head is 718,383 krans. The total number of unsettled claims in the Bushire district is over ninety, but those of which the justice of which His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires entertains any doubt have been omitted.

2. The Assafoetida claim at Meshed. This claim has been for many months before the Persian Government. After His Majesty's Legation was unable to obtain satisfaction from the Customs Department, the case was referred to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh in the note of the 18th November, 1905. The amount claimed is 3,129 tomans 4 krans 11 shahis.

3. Assault of Idjlal-ed-Dowleh on the I.E.T.D. signaller at Borasjun. See Legation note of the 28th October, 1904. Amount claimed 160 tomans.

4. Dayer Piracy Case. Amount claimed, 4,400 rupees.

5. Sassoon's robbery between Bunder Abbas and Kerman. Legation note of the 7th December, 1905. Amount claimed, 2,600 rupees.

6. Robbery of Messrs. Lynch's goods at the Orchini Pass in the Province of Ispahan. Legation note of the 7th December, 1905. Amount claimed, 707 tomans 4 krans.

7. Claim against the Governor of Malayer. Legation note of the 30th November, 1905. Amount claimed, 150 tomans.

8. Robbery of goods belonging to Messrs. Ziegler at Khar Varamin. Amount claimed, 150 tomans. Legation note of the 29th November, 1905.

9. Claim of Mr. Vandyke for photographs supplied for His Majesty the Shah. Amount claimed, 54*l.* 2*s.*

10. Claim of Messrs. Thornhill for goods supplied to His Majesty the Shah. Amount claimed, 18l. 19s.
11. Claim of Messrs. Andrews, gunmakers, against the heirs of the Serdar Mekarrem. Amount claimed, 33l.
12. Destruction by Kum Seyyeds of Messrs. Lynch's toll-house at Kasr Dokhter and robbery of tools, &c., belonging to Messrs. Lynch. Amount claimed, 101 tomans, 9 krans 95 shahis. Legation note of the 15th September, 1905.
13. Mirza Abul Qassim's claim on account of the "Maliat," of Jawalabad.
14. Messrs. Coddington and Lamb's claim against Hassan Ali Khajour. Amount claimed, 1,000 tomans, with interest.
15. Claim for the destruction of the dispensary of His Majesty's Consulate in Seistan. Amount claimed, 100l.
16. Robbery from Gholam of the I.E.T.D. between Soh and the Kohrud. Amount claimed, 273 tomans 7 krans 10 shahis.
17. Robbery from Elric Birch between Yezd and Kerman. Amount claimed, 269 tomans 1 kran.
18. Robbery from the Munshi of His Majesty's Consulate at Shiraz, Rig Shuturan. Amount claimed, 284 tomans 3 krans.
19. Attack on steam-ship "Shushan." Amount claimed, 1,066 tomans 3 krans 10 shahis. Legation note of the 31st October, 1905.
20. Yahia Khan's robbery. Amount claimed, 14 tomans 4 krans.

(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

*Some Outstanding Questions the settlement or reconsideration of which is desired by His Majesty's Legation.*

1. The refusal of the Persian Government to grant the Kuh-i-Malik Siah Telegraph extension.
2. The Henjam land question.
3. The adequate punishment of the assailants of Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas and Captain Lorimer, and the payment of the compensation demanded by His Majesty's Government.
4. The adequate punishment of the Kurds who fired on Captain Gough near Urmi in November 1904.
5. The adequate punishment of the ringleaders in, and instigators of, the attack on His Majesty's Consulate in Seistan on the 27th March, 1906.
6. The refusal of the Persian Government to grant custom facilities for the British Indian guard stationed at Jask.
7. The refusal of the Persian Government to accept the Representative of His Majesty's Legation on behalf of Bahreinis in Persia.
8. The refusal of the Persian Government hitherto to allow the Persian Transport Company to levy tolls on the Kum-Sultanabad road in spite of the terms of the Concession.
9. The refusal of the Persian Government to make proper arrangements to prevent raiding on the Bakhtiari road.
10. The refusal of the Persian Government to accept Colonel McMahon's Water Award.
11. The refusal of the Persian Government to allow arms and ammunition to be sent to His Majesty's Consulates at Meshed and in Seistan. It is to be noticed that since the request of His Majesty's Government was refused His Majesty's Consulate in Seistan has been attacked, the Consular dispensary destroyed, and His Majesty's Consul stoned. No attempt has up to the present been made to arrest the offenders, or in any way to give satisfaction.
12. No satisfaction has been given for the beating of the messengers of His Majesty's Consulate-General at Bushire by tufangchis on the Bushire-Shiraz road.
13. The refusal of the Persian Government to compel the Serdar Akram to apologise to His Majesty's Consul at Shiraz for causing a muleteer to be beaten, who was sent by His Majesty's Consul to the Karguzari to give evidence in a case of robbery of British-owned goods.
14. The failure of the Persian Government, in spite of repeated and urgent representations, to take any adequate measures to protect caravans on the Shiraz-Bushire road and generally on the southern roads.

[19827]

No. 192.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 11.)*

(No. 141.)  
Sir,

*Tehran, May 22, 1906.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 124 of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose two notes which I have addressed to the Persian Government regarding the riot at Nasratabad on the 27th March last.

In the first of these notes I have demanded the payment of 100l. as compensation for the destruction of the dispensary of His Majesty's Consulate in Seistan. In the second note I have requested the Mushir-ed-Dowleh to add two other names to the list already sent to his Excellency of the persons who instigated the disturbance. At the same time I have pointed out the danger resulting from the absence of the Deputy Governor from Nasratabad. The Mushir-ed-Dowleh has repeatedly informed me that he has sent orders to that official to return to the town, but the orders have either not been sent or the Deputy Governor fears the plague more than his superiors in Tehran.

As I had the honour to state in my telegram No. 138 of the 14th instant, the Momtahan-es-Sultaneh has left here for Seistan to make an inquiry into the riot, and to deal with various quarantine questions. Whether his mission will have any satisfactory result remains to be seen, but he has been friendly to us in the past.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 192.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Mushir-ed-Dowleh.*

*Tehran, April 27, 1906.*

I AM informed by His Majesty's Consul in Seistan that the damage done to the Consular Hospital during the riot of the 27th ultimo amounted to 100l., or about 580 tomans at the present rate of exchange.

I have the honour to request that this sum be paid to me by the Persian Government.

Inclosure 2 in No. 192.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Mushir-ed-Dowleh.*

*Tehran, April 27, 1906.*

IN my note of the 25th instant I had the honour to furnish you with the names of the instigators of the riot at Nasratabad (Seistan) as far as they were then known to me.

I request your Excellency to be so good as to add the following names to the list:—

Mullah Muhammed Hassan, son of Kerbelai Abdulla, and Mullah Abbas.

As regards the people concerned in the attack on His Majesty's Consulate, Captain Macpherson is ready to assist the Persian Government in identifying them.

I may mention that, in spite of the orders stated to have been sent to the Deputy Governor, that official has not yet returned to Nasratabad, and there is now nobody with whom His Majesty's Consul can transact current business.

It is unnecessary for me to point out to your Excellency that the absence of all civil authority from a town which was recently the scene of a formidable riot and which is affected by plague constitutes a serious danger to the Europeans residing there. I am confident that the Persian Government will lose no time in taking effectual steps to put an end to a very grave situation.

[19828]

No. 193.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 11.)*

(No. 142. Confidential.)

Sir,

*Tehran, May 22, 1906.*

THERE have for some time past been rumours here that the German Government intend in future to take greater interest in Persian affairs, and on the 9th instant Count d'Apehier le Maugin, the French Chargé d'Affaires, informed me confidentially that he had heard from more than one good source that Germany, under cover of Belgian financiers, was about to lend Persia 25,000,000 marks under the following conditions:—

1. A coaling station near the mouth of the Shatt-ul-Arab.
2. A road concession from Khanikin to Kermanshah.
3. A college and hospital in Tehran managed by Germans.

As I had the honour to report in my telegram No. 136 of the 14th instant, the Grand Vizier informed me that no such negotiations were in progress, but his Highness added that as Great Britain and Russia had hitherto declined to give him financial assistance he was obliged to try and obtain money elsewhere.

The Mushir-ed-Dowleh denied all knowledge of such a loan, but admitted that the German Government had recently proposed to found a school here. The Persian Government had consented, and would bear part of the cost.

Although I can obtain no confirmation of Count d'Apehier's information beyond that portion of it relating to the school, I suspect that when M. Naus was in Constantinople he approached the German Ambassador regarding a loan to Persia, and may possibly have received encouragement. He denies that he did so; but I am told that he was constantly at the German Embassy. I have instructed His Majesty's Consuls at Bushire, Mohammurah, and Kermanshah to make careful inquiries regarding any Germans who may visit their districts, but as yet I have received no information worth reporting. Still, I think that there are certain signs that the German Government are not indifferent to Persian affairs. These are:—

1. The appointment here as Minister of the present German Consul-General at Constantinople. M. Stemmerich has been much connected with the Bagdad Railway scheme, and is, I believe, an expert in matters connected with the Near East. As you know, it is unusual for the German Government to appoint an official of the Consular Service to be Minister except for some special reason.

2. The recent appointment here of a Military Attaché, who will arrive in August. He is a cousin and name-ake of the German Chargé d'Affaires, Baron Richthofen.

3. There has been a considerable increase in German imports into Persia during the last two years, viz.: 1903-1904, 108,085*l.*; 1904-1905, 121,254*l.* The exports to Germany, although unimportant, have also increased from 3,248*l.* to 6,918*l.* in the corresponding period. Count Rex, who appeared somewhat apathetic as regards political matters here, took an almost feverish interest in Persian trade.

4. The building of a very large country Legation.

5. The only Persian hospital here is under the management of the doctor of the German Legation.

6. The Hamburg-American Line has arranged to run steamers to the Persian Gulf.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

[19829]

No. 194.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 11.)*

(No. 143.)

Sir,

*Tehran, May 23, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the monthly summary of events in Persia which have not been recorded in separate despatches.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure in No. 194.

*Monthly Summary of Events in Persia, May 1906.**Meshed.*

FURTHER particulars regarding the riots which took place in Meshed last month show that they were instigated by Russian Turkish students, and were directed mainly against the Muavin-ut-Tujjar, a Heratia merchant. The ringleader, a Russian Turk was wounded, and subsequently died. The Russian Consul-General, though at first claiming that the rioters should be treated as Russian subjects, subsequently admitted that they had no registration certificates, and were entirely beyond his control, and the ringleaders eventually gave themselves up to the Governor-General, who permitted them to leave Khorassan without arresting them. Major Sykes states that he has information that M. de Giers received instructions from his Legation to distribute the sum of 1,000 roubles among the students, and in another report he says that the Russian Legation, on a complaint from the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, has sent a despatch to their Consul-General ordering him to inform the offenders that, should they take any further part in disturbances, they will either be deported to Russia or handed over to the Persian authorities to be dealt with as Persian subjects; and that if any of them are killed in riots, the Russian Government will not take up their cases.

2. Another incident which recently took place shows how little control is exercised by M. de Giers over a section of his subjects. A boy, who was kept by a coffee-house keeper for immoral purposes, went to the Consulate to ask that he might be sent back to Russia. His master, a Shakkai Turk, followed him into the office and there murdered him with a dagger in the presence of the clerks.

3. Captain Tyass, the officer in charge of quarantine arrangements, is said to have been appointed Russian Consul at Turbat-i-Haideri.

4. Another Russian officer is reported to have been travelling in the neighbourhood of Astrabad, and two Russian Cossacks, one Turcoman sowar, and a Persian interpreter, were sent recently from Meshed to meet him at Sabzawar.

5. M. Demtrieff, the Manager of the Russian Bank, is said to have asked the Timuri Chief to purchase for him 10,000 sheep, which he intends to sell at a low price to the people of Meshed. His object is to efface the hostile feeling against the Russians caused by recent events.

6. Major Sykes left Meshed on leave to England on the 21st April. Major Kemion, who has been appointed Consul in Seistan, is to act for him during his absence, and left Tehran on the 5th instant to take up his duties.

7. His Majesty's Consul at Turbat-i-Haideri reports that the Persians are about to construct a telegraph line from that place to Tabas in Tun, via Turshiz and Gunabad, without assistance from the Russians.

*Seistan.*

1. The somewhat serious riots which took place in Seistan at the end of March were reported by telegram. Further particulars since received show that several well-known agents of the Russian Bank were among the ringleaders, and Captain MacPherson was at first strongly of opinion that the disturbances were entirely due to Russian instigation. In subsequent reports, however, he appears to think there may be some truth in reports which have reached him to the effect that the Deputy Governor himself was to a great extent responsible, animosity on the part of himself and his subordinates against the Belgian Customs officials being the motive which actuated him.

2. On the 13th April, a dam on the Bunjar Canal was cut with the intention, it was said, of diverting the water and flooding the British Consulate, but the only result was to flood a number of wheat fields in the neighbourhood and so discredit the originator of the scheme.

3. Dr. Sven Hedin arrived in Seistan on the 9th April, where he stayed with the British Consul. He had travelled from Tabas to Naiband, and thence across the desert to Neh. Mr. Grant Duff informed the Swedish Minister at Paris, who had telegraphed on the subject, of Sven Hedin's safe arrival.



*Kerman.*

1. The Firman Firma arrived at Kerman on the 27th April. He is reported to have imprisoned and bastinadoed the Governor of Anar on his way through on suspicion of his being concerned in recent robberies on the Yezd and Bunder Abbas roads; and he left his nephew as Governor of Rafsinjan.

2. A certain Mirza Mahomed Khan has secured a contract for the post, presumably on the Yezd road, where he is inaugurating a service of carriages, and has placed eighty horses along the route.

*Yezd.*

A short time ago a Mr. Mashul, representative of the British firm of Elric, Birch, and Co., was ordered by the Malik-ut-Tujjar to pay a muleteer a sum of money, which the latter alleged he had paid for "tufanghis" while carrying goods for the firm, and on his refusal to acknowledge the debt men were sent to his office, his farrash was seriously beaten, and had not the Begler Begi intervened, the consequences might have been serious. The Governor, to whom the case was reported by the Acting Vice-Consul, gave no satisfaction, but the matter was eventually compromised by a private arrangement between Mr. Mashul and the Malik-ut-Tujjar.

A man was recently beaten to death by one of the Mujtehids of Yezd, to whom he had applied for assistance in the settlement of a dispute. The cause of his assault was his refusal to accede to the somewhat exorbitant demands of the priest, who, being under powerful protection, is likely to go unpunished.

*Mohammerah.*

The Director of Customs at Mohammerah has received orders to remove the embargo on the export of grain for two months, with authority to enforce it again should there be any fear of famine. Our Vice-Consul reports that the crops in the Karun valley are everywhere good, and there is every prospect of an abundant harvest. So long, therefore, as the embargo is at the discretion of the Customs officials there is no danger of its again being put on.

*Shiraz.*

1. The district of Fars now appears to be somewhat quieter, though robberies in the town of Shiraz and neighbourhood are of frequent occurrence, and are believed to be mainly the work of the men of the regiment stationed there. A servant of one of the officials of the Imperial Bank was recently robbed close outside the Residency. Mr. Grahame has recently had several interviews with the Vazir-i-Makhsus regarding the condition of the country generally and the settlement of outstanding British claims, and has been met in a very friendly spirit by his Excellency; some minor cases have now been settled, and compensation in other cases has been promised. The Vazir-i-Makhsus complains bitterly of the difficulties of his position, and is especially hampered in his efforts to introduce order by the fact that many tracts of land all over the district have been sold to the Prince Shoa-es-Saltaneh, each of which is a focus of intrigue on behalf of the ex-Governor-General.

2. The case of the slave girl Jamileh was settled by the issue of letters of manumission, subject to the proviso that she should spend three days and nights with her alleged husband, and should then come to the Consulate and declare whether she elected to remain with him as a free woman or go away. After the experience stipulated in the agreement, she chose the latter course. Mr. Grahame has been pressing on the officiating Governor-General the question of the punishment of persons found trafficking in slaves. Owing to the pressure of His Majesty's Legation all the slaves who were in "bast" at His Majesty's Consulate have now been freed.

3. Endeavours are being made to provide for the better security of the Bushire road by exercising a more effective control over the "tufanghis" and preventing them from levying blackmail on travellers.

4. The post from Ispahan is now being brought to Shiraz in fourgons, the riding horses have been taken off the road and draught horses substituted. Carriages for travellers are provided at a charge of 1,250 krans for the journey. The post which left Tehran on the 24th April was robbed south of Kazerun on the night of the 12th instant, everything, including the mules, being carried off.

5. There is much talk in Shiraz regarding the actions of a certain Kerim Khan in the neighbourhood of Behbahan, who is said to have set himself up as a pretender to the Persian Throne and collected a following. Reports say that he has compelled the Governor of Behbahan to sign an undertaking to hand over to him the Maliyat of that district, and to have addressed a similar request to the Vazir-i-Makhsus. It is possible that the Bakhtiaris may be asked to send a force against him.

*Ispahan.*

From Ispahan it is reported that riots have recently taken place, owing to the high prices of bread and meat, in which one woman was killed and a granary plundered. The road to Ardistan is infested with robbers in the neighbourhood of the latter town.

*Kermanshah.*

1. His Majesty's Consul, who has recently been on tour to the Turkish frontier, reports that owing to rain and snow the caravan road was in extremely bad condition.

2. The Direkwand prisoners, who had for some time been kept in Kermanshah in connection with the attack on Colonel Douglas and Captain Lorimer in 1904, have now been sent under escort to Burujird, where they are presumably imprisoned by his Imperial Highness the Salar-ed-Dowleh. Two small guns have also been sent from Kermanshah to Burujird for use against the Lurs. Captain Gough mentions that the postal service to Kermanshah has during the last year been becoming more and more irregular, and could scarcely be worse.

*Tabreez.*

The Turks now have a detachment of eight men, under a lieutenant, at Mergawa, and are reported to have increased their force in the neighbourhood of Urmi, some soldiers having visited the town of Urmi where they beat a Persian, apparently with the object of seeing what would happen. Nothing happened. Mr. Wratishaw reports that wherever the Turks are in possession the Kurds are kept in order, but outside such districts the population is migrating for fear of them. They are said to have arrested the men accused of the murder of the American missionary.

Meanwhile, a camp is being formed outside Tabreez, and troops are beginning to arrive. The Valiahd proposes to call out 11,000 infantry, 3,000 cavalry, and 1,000 artillery, the latter being expected from Tehran. A body of cavalry is to be sent direct to Khoi, where Turkish aggression is feared. The Prince's idea now is to postpone a settlement of the frontier question for some years, during which the army can be raised to a decent level.

*Resht.*

From Resht it is reported that the Prince Governor has been dismissed. He was expected to leave for Tehran on the 11th instant.

(Signed) J. A. DOUGLAS, *Lieutenant-Colonel.*

*Tehran.*

The Chief Manager of the Imperial Bank of Persia has informed His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires that the Persian Government has so far taken no steps to repay the sum of from 13,500% to 14,500% due by them in account current.

His Highness the Jellal-ed-Dowleh, eldest son of the Zil-es-Sultan, has just been recalled from Kurdistan, where he had lately been appointed Governor. Many complaints had apparently reached the Central Government of his maladministration.

His Majesty's Legation, which had enjoyed a long spell of freedom from the annoyance of "bastis," has again been called upon to deal with a number of these persons, who take sanctuary in order to obtain through our good offices the redress of their grievances. Some natives of Shuster took sanctuary at the Legation on the 15th instant in connection with what appears to be a case of flagrant injustice done to them by the present Governor of Arabistan, Serdar Mukarrem. This official is a nephew of the Nizam-es-Sultaneh, and was Governor of Bushire and the Gulf Ports when Lord Curzon visited those regions in 1903. The case is a very difficult one to deal with, and our representations have so far proved of no avail. His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires hopes, however, to be able eventually to settle the matter in a friendly way through the Nizam-es-Sultaneh's intervention.

A woman took sanctuary on the 21st instant, representing herself to be a concubine of the Grand Vizier's son. This case also promises to be a troublesome one.

A communication was lately made to the Persian Government on behalf of the Armenian community, offering their armed assistance to Persia in the event of hostilities breaking out in connection with the frontier incident. The Turkish Government hearing of the offer, the Turkish Ambassador was instructed to refer the point on its legal merits to the "Shiah" clergy, which his Excellency did in the ordinary form of an "estefah," which was addressed first to Seyed Abdullah, the principal Mujtehid of Tehran. This ecclesiastic replied that, in the case of a dispute between two Mussulmans, it was illegal for either party to invoke the aid of an unbeliever, and that if he did so it was lawful to kill him. Seyed Mohammed, another leading Tehran Mujtehid, refused to indorse this ruling, and induced Seyed Abdullah to withdraw it, which he only succeeded in doing, after considerable difficulty, by presenting himself in person at the Turkish Embassy and insisting that the document should be returned to him.

The Persian Commissioners appointed to discuss the frontier question with the Turkish Delegates on the spot having left Tehran for the frontier, after considerable delay and procrastination, the matter has ceased to be the principal topic of conversation. The Shah's health is now the principal subject of discussion in Persian circles, and it is well known that His Majesty's condition was at one moment very critical, though the actual facts, as described in Mr. Grant Duff's separate despatch on the subject, are not generally known to the public.

#### MATTERS dealt with in separate Despatches.

Matters dealt with.	Number and Date of Despatch.
Major Sykes' proposed tour on the Perso-Russian frontier .. .. .	No. 125, May 1, 1906.
M. Grube, late Russian Financial Agent in Tehran..	No. 127, May 17, 1906.
Count Rex, late German Minister .. .. .	No. 128, May 18, 1906.
D'Arcy Petroleum Concession .. .. .	No. 129, May 18, and No. 139, May 22, 1906.
Bakhtiari road .. .. .	No. 130, May 19, and No. 131, May 20, 1906.
Indo-Persian Postal Convention.. .. .	No. 132, May 21, 1906.
Birjand quarantine .. .. .	No. 133, May 21, 1906.
Turco-Persian frontier dispute .. .. .	No. 134, May 21, and No. 147, May 23, 1906.
Caspian Sea fisheries .. .. .	No. 135, Secret, May 21, 1906.
Attack on Mr. Cane, of the I.E.T.D. .. .. .	No. 136, May 22, 1906.
Bunder Abbas cable .. .. .	No. 137, May 22, 1906.
Henjam .. .. .	No. 138, May 22, 1906.
Outstanding British claims .. .. .	No. 140, May 22, 1906.
Seistan disturbances .. .. .	No. 141, May 22, 1906.
German activity in Persia .. .. .	No. 142, Confidential, May 22, 1906.
Kum-Sultanabad road .. .. .	No. 144, May 23, 1906.
Shah's health .. .. .	No. 145, May 23, 1906.
Reform movement .. .. .	No. 146, May 23, 1906.
Roumanian Mission .. .. .	No. 148, May 23, 1906.

[19831]

No. 195.

Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 11.)

(No. 145. Confidential.)

Sir,

Tehran, May 23, 1906.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 139, Secret, of the 15th instant, I have the honour to report that on the 10th instant His Majesty the Shah, who had for some days been slightly indisposed, grew worse, and on the 11th instant His Majesty had a stroke of paralysis, which has affected the whole left side of his body and face.

It is extremely difficult to obtain reliable information as to His Majesty's exact condition, but last Wednesday the Mushir-ed-Dowleh admitted to me that His Majesty's health was very bad, and that the Council of Ministers were discussing what should be done to carry on the Government of the country. In Persia even the most trivial matters are at all events theoretically brought to the Shah's notice, and when the Monarch is incapacitated through illness all Government business is *ipso facto* at a standstill, and it becomes even more difficult than usual to obtain answers to notes, or indeed to get anything done at all.

In view of the fact that the Valiahd and the Grand Vizier are on very bad terms, I thought it well immediately to acquaint His Imperial Highness with the situation. I am now very glad that I did so, as the Valiahd is exceedingly grateful, and on the day Mr. Wratislaw informed him of the Shah's indisposition he had received a communication from the Grand Vizier saying that His Majesty was quite well, and that no attention should be paid to false reports to the contrary.

On the 19th, as there appeared to be no improvement in the situation, I called on the Russian Chargé d'Affaires and proposed that we should telegraph to our respective Governments, recommending that the Valiahd should be advised to come at once to Tehran. M. de Somow quite agreed with me that it was undesirable that the present state of affairs should continue, and promised to send the proposed message to St. Petersburg. In accordance with the instructions contained in your reply to my telegram, I have made no further communication to the Valiahd.

It is stated that the Shah is now a little better, but His Majesty cannot stand, and is carried everywhere or wheeled about in a chair. A Roumanian special Mission has just arrived to present His Majesty with the Order of the Star of Roumania. It is stated that the Shah will receive the Mission to-day. If so, it will be interesting to hear how the ceremony passes off, as His Majesty cannot stand and can only speak with difficulty.

The Grand Vizier is so unpopular with all classes that I think there is little danger that he will attempt to interfere with the succession of the Valiahd.

Probably of all the Shah's sons the Heir-Apparent is the least hated, and I think it very doubtful whether the Persian people, down-trodden as they are, would accept the Shoa-es-Saltaneh as Sovereign, after his conduct of affairs as Governor-General of Fars.

I have the honour to inclose a Memorandum by Dr. Scott, Acting Physician of His Majesty's Legation, giving such medical details of the Shah's illness as he has been able to collect.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure in No. 195.

Dr. Scott to Mr. E. Grant Duff.

Sir,

Tehran, May 19, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to report the gist of a conversation which I had with Dr. Lindley *re* His Majesty the Shah's health:—

His Majesty is very emotional, hysterical, and susceptible to suggestion. Some days previous to his present illness a courier died from paralysis. His Majesty expressed the opinion that he would become paralyzed; the subject was often a topic of conversation with his physicians.

The following are a few of the Shah's symptoms written down from memory: Paralysis of the left leg and arm; dragging of the foot; sensation, normal; knee, jerks; face, angle of mouth drawn upwards; tongue, speech thick and heavy, but

not protruded to one side; eye, no paralysis of ocular muscles; drowsy and sleepy first day or two; urine contains two grammes of albumen per litre, urea normal, highly acid. Since the outset of the attack his state is described as being better, some of the muscles of the hand having recovered.

When seen by any one, such as the Grand Vizier, he becomes confused, and his speech thicker. One of the eunuchs reports having seen him use the paralyzed arm whilst asleep; this, however, must be taken *cum grano salis*. His physicians have so far been unable to make up their minds as to the case being one of hysteria or organic disease. Dr. Lindley thinks the cause might be a small hæmorrhage in the internal capsule or an embolism, although he can assign no cause for the latter, as his arteries are not athermatous; possibly it might be caused by a small clot, as His Majesty is very anæmic, which would favour such an occurrence.

The Babinski sign being well marked is of the greatest value in distinguishing between certain organic lesions and hysterical hemiplegia. This sign probably never occurs in a case of hysteria uncomplicated by organic disease. The differential diagnosis of functional disease of the nervous system is one of the most difficult diagnostic problems with which we have to deal. The combination of functional or hysterical symptoms with organic disease of the nervous system is a frequent source of error in diagnosis. The mere presence of functional or hysterical symptoms, such as occur in His Majesty's case, does not justify a diagnosis of functional or hysterical mischief until one has carefully excluded organic disease.

Therefore one must conclude that His Majesty is suffering from an organic lesion until his physicians can throw some more light on the subject.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. SCOTT.

[19832]

No. 196.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 11.)*

(No. 146.)  
Sir,

*Tehran, May 23, 1906.*

I HAVE at various times had the honour to report to you the successive phases of a so-called reform movement initiated by the clergy of Tehran. It will no doubt be in your recollection that the Shah issued a Rescript in January last promising to consider the various schemes put forward by them, and thus induced them to leave Shahabdulazim, where they had taken sanctuary, as reported in my despatch No. 23, Confidential, of the 30th January last.

No serious steps have, however, been taken by the Shah's Government to fulfil these promises, but the clergy have not ceased to press the Shah and the Grand Vizier on the point. The latter called a meeting of the principal Ministers and Courtiers on the 29th ultimo to consider the matter, but the proceedings would not have been worth recording had it not been for the attitude adopted by Ehtesham-es-Sultaneh, Persian Minister at Berlin, who has since been appointed Persian Delegate on the Turco-Persian Frontier Commission.

Ehtesham-es-Sultaneh strongly urged the immediate necessity of serious reforms in order to save the country from impending ruin. He spoke without reserve of the degradation of the Persian Government, of the dishonesty of the Ministers at the head of it, of the financial and administrative breakdown, and of the evils every one is so familiar with. His words created considerable sensation, as the views he set forth, although undoubtedly shared by the general public and by many of the Ministers present, had never been expressed quite so openly before.

Amir Behadur Jang, the Minister of the Court, and certainly the most influential person with the Shah at the present moment, interrupted Ehtesham-es-Sultaneh several times, declaring that his words amounted to treason; but, continuing his address, Ehtesham-es-Sultaneh declared that if the measures proposed, which should include a representative body elected by the people, were expected to bring about any serious reform, the Shah himself must be subordinate to the representatives of the people. Thereupon the Vezir Derbar (Amir Behadur Jang) protested emphatically that he would be no party to such revolutionary proceedings, and an angry altercation was suppressed by the Grand Vizier, who said that the matter could easily be settled by every one present voting for or against the proposals, which turned on the degree of independence from the Shah which the proposed representative body should be allowed to enjoy.

The Vezir Derbar and Ehtesham-es-Sultaneh were, however, the only persons who expressed decided opinions, the others resorting to the usual Persian equivocations. The Mushir-ed-Dowleh, for instance, declared that the difficulties he constantly experienced with the foreign Representatives were becoming more acute every day, and he could only hope that the proposed new arrangement would relieve him of some of his present responsibility. The Grand Vizier was, as usual, very reserved, and only remarked that the Shah was in favour of reforms which they had assembled there to discuss.

As soon as the meeting broke up the Vizier Derbar went to the Shah, and in a very excited manner told His Majesty that some of his Ministers were trying to curtail his power and undermine his authority; that a revolutionary scheme was on foot which really aimed at the overthrow of the Kajar dynasty. The Shah observed, however, that all European Sovereigns were assisted to rule their States by representative bodies elected by the people, and their power and independence were greater than his own.

Ehtesham-es-Sultaneh was warmly congratulated by his friends and supporters on the spirited manner in which he exposed the evils which are ruining the country, and by which he made a bid for political freedom.

It is, perhaps, superfluous to add that probably little or nothing will result from these discussions, which the clerical agitators who originated the movement already describe as a mere comedy organized with the object of keeping them quiet.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

[20099]

No. 197.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 11.)*

(No. 156.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Gulahek, June 11, 1906.*

SHIRAZ disturbances.

Following is substance of telegrams received from His Majesty's Consul at Shiraz:—

"His Majesty's Consul has been asked by the Chief Priest to inform the Grand Vizier that he (the Chief Priest) has, in accordance with the Grand Vizier's instructions, harangued the merchants in 'bast' at the British Consulate, but that the merchants refused to leave the Consulate unless the Persian Government would send an assurance to the British Legation that the grievances of the people of Fars would be redressed.

"The situation has been aggravated by the arrest in Tehran of a great Fars landowner, and the Chief Priest is of opinion that it may become serious."

I have informed the Grand Vizier in the sense of the above, requesting his Highness to take steps for the restoration of order at Shiraz.

[20032]

No. 198.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 11.)*

(No. 157.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Gulahek, June 11, 1906.*

SHIRAZ disturbances.

Following sent to Shiraz to-day:—

"Governor-Generalship of Fars has been given to Ala-ed-Dowleh, who will leave Tehran shortly for his post. Mushir-ed-Dowleh begs that you will do what you can to allay the popular excitement, and that you will announce this appointment to the people in the Consulate."

[20102]

No. 199.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 12.)*

(No. 158.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, June 12, 1906.*

RUSSIANS on Meshed-Seistan telegraph line.

According to a telegram which I have received from His Majesty's Consul-General at Meshed, the wire and battery of the Seistan telegraph line have been moved by the Russians into their own office, so that they can now cut off both the Persian and British offices whenever they like.

I have addressed a note to the Persian Government on the subject.

[20105]

No. 200.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 12.)*

(No. 159.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, June 12, 1906.*

FOLLOWING sent to India :—

"I have been asked verbally by the Russian Minister whether it is true that the garrison at Robat has been increased to 8,000 men. Has there been any reinforcement of the 200 men originally sent up?"

[19795]

No. 201.

*Sir Edward Grey to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 83.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, June 14, 1906.*

LOAN to Valiahd.

Your telegram No. 117 and Mr. Spring-Rice's No. 97.

In the event of the Shah's death, the Valiahd will probably, as in 1896, be supplied with sufficient money to meet immediate needs by the Imperial Bank. If he should require further assistance you should, with a view to a joint advance, concert with your Russian colleague. For such a purpose His Majesty's Government are prepared, on the same terms as regards security and interest as in the case of our two previous loans, to provide up to 50,000%.

[20569]

No. 202.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 16.)*

(No. 161.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, June 16, 1906.*

SHIRAZ disturbances.

Over 300 people are still in the British Consulate at Shiraz, and the Persian Government either cannot or will not take adequate steps to restore order. His Majesty's Consul has made every effort to induce the people to leave the Consulate, but they refuse to move until the Persian Government give me a written assurance that their grievances will be redressed.

It must be a month at least before the new Governor can reach Shiraz, and it is not yet even certain that he has accepted office.

I submit that matters cannot be left in their present condition, and the Grand Vizier will not be affected in the slightest degree by anything except threats. Both here and all over Persia the situation is becoming daily worse, and will soon be dangerous, and I am of opinion that the time for some kind of foreign intervention is approaching.

All government has practically ceased, for the Shah, though he can now walk about with a stick, does no work.

I suggest that instructions should be sent to me to ask for an audience of His Majesty and to convey from His Majesty's Government a strong message, hinting that the Grand Vizier is totally incapable of governing the country.

[20526]

No. 201\*.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 16.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 15th instant, regarding the Perso-Afghan frontier.

*India Office, June 16, 1906.*

Inclosure in No. 201\*.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*June 15, 1906.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 14th April, we repeat for your information following telegrams, dated respectively 10th and 12th instant, regarding the Perso-Afghan frontier :—

1. From Consul at Seistan—

"Full report by post follows later. Outside Birjand, where intention of establishing cordon when Persian Cossacks arrive has been expressed by Dr. Frank, only quarantine post is at Duroh, which is reported by Howson to have been established with the object of turning Afghans and others back to Bandan by Shaokat. Few caravans, if any, however, have taken this route since outbreak of plague. There are at present no quarantine posts on Kain-Afghan frontier."

2. From Consul-General, Meshed—

"As Shaokat-ul-Mulk is being urged by Russian doctor to establish cordon on the undelimited portion of the Kain-Afghan frontier, presence at Birjand of Captain Watson is important. He reports that there has been no plague at Jangal since the 26th May, and he proposes, after raising the cordon on the 15th June, to proceed to Birjand."

Instructions to proceed at once to Birjand are being sent to Captain Watson.



[20618]

No. 203.

*Mr. Whitehead to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 18.)*

(No. 171.)

Sir,

*Berlin, June 13, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to report that a communication from Reuter's Agency, dated at Constantinople on the 30th ultimo, and published in the "Times" of the 6th June under the heading of "Germany and Persia," has called forth an inspired rejoinder in the German press through the medium of the "Suddeutsche Reichskorrespondenz," and some comment in other papers.

It is stated in this rejoinder that the rumour to the effect that Germany was seeking a Railway Concession for the Kermanshah-Khanikin line is a purely fantastic suggestion. German enterprise has indeed secured a Concession for a railway from Bagdad to the Persian Gulf, but no such right has ever been sought for in regard to railway construction on Persian territory.

Similarly, the article characterises as a mere invention the rumour that the German Ambassador at Constantinople had approached the Porte with a view to obtaining by purchase or by a lease the use of the Island of Gobul or El Awul, near Barein, for a coaling-station, stating that Germany has no intention of acquiring islands in the Red Sea or in the Persian Gulf.

The only part of Reuter's message which the communiqué to the "Suddeutsche Reichskorrespondenz" confirms, is that the funds for the construction of the Taurus section of the Bagdad Railway are already available, and that the assistance of foreign capital for this purpose will not be required.

The "Berliner Tageblatt" observes, in reproducing the above, that this rebuke to Reuter's bureau and its English wire-pullers will not prevent similar tales of horror in regard to Germany's alleged schemes being circulated again to-morrow or the next day, as this belongs to the business of Reuter's bureau and its promoters.

The "Frankfurter Zeitung," in discussing Reuter's report concerning the islands in the Persian Gulf before the semi-official rejoinder appeared, says that there is probably no word of truth in the rumour, although there is no apparent reason why Germany should not acquire coaling-stations in the Persian Gulf as well as England, provided she obtains the consent of the territorial Sovereigns concerned.

The Berlin "Lokalanzeiger" observes that all endeavours to bring about more friendly relations between Germany and Great Britain are repeatedly frustrated by circulation of rumours, such as the present one, which are alleged to originate outside London, and which are calculated, if not intended, to create ill-feeling against Germany.

The "Freie Deutsche Presse" of the 12th June has a long and violent article on the same subject, but as the paper is unimportant it is not worth reproducing.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) J. B. WHITEHEAD.

[20883]

No. 204.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 18.)*

(No. 163.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, June 18, 1906.*

SHIRAZ disturbances.

Following sent to Shiraz:—

"An order giving the Ala-ed-Dowleh full powers with regard to Fars affairs and to the Crown lands was to-day shown confidentially by the Ala-ed-Dowleh to Churchill. At present you should not mention this order, of the existence of which the Grand Vizier and the Shoa-es-Sultaneh are still in ignorance.

"Recommend the people in the Consulate to disperse, informing them that I am satisfied that the new Governor-General will do his best to redress their grievances."

[19820]

No. 205.

*Sir Edward Grey to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*(No. 94.)  
Sir,*Foreign Office, June 18, 1906.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 134 of the 21st ultimo, transmitting correspondence with the Mushir-ed-Dowleh respecting the responsibility of the Persian Government for the lives and property of British subjects on the Turco-Persian frontier.

I approve your action in this matter.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

[21079]

No. 206.

*Mr. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 20.)*

(No. 164.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, June 20, 1906.*

SHIRAZ disturbances.

Following sent to Shiraz to-day :—

“Ala-ed-Dowleh left Tehran to-day, and promised me to travel to Shiraz as quickly as possible. I have induced Mushir-ed-Dowleh to promise to address me a note, stating that full powers to redress grievances have been granted to the new Governor-General.”

[21085]

No. 207.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 20.)*

(No. 165. Secret.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, June 20, 1906.*

It has recently been ascertained by His Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez that the Valiahd suspects His Majesty's Government of favouring the Shoa-es-Saltaneh. I have instructed Mr. Wratislaw to inform His Imperial Highness that this is not the case, but Mr. Wratislaw answers that he thinks it would be well to inform the Valiahd of the existence in Tehran of a party, headed by the Valiahd, who wish the Shoa-es-Saltaneh to be raised to the Throne. Mr. Wratislaw is of opinion that if this is not done the Valiahd will subsequently interpret our silence as connivance.

Should Mr. Wratislaw inform the Valiahd confidentially? My secret informant as to the conspiracy is the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, who has promised to keep me supplied with information.

The Shah goes to the country next Sunday. His Majesty is better.

[19812]

No. 208.

*Foreign Office to India Office.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, June 20, 1906.*

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran, regarding the tour which His Majesty's Consul-General at Meshed proposes to make in September next on the frontier of Khorassan.

Sir E. Grey has given the matter his careful consideration, and is of opinion that such a tour on the Russo-Persian frontier, in a district lying outside the legitimate sphere of British interests, would be likely to unduly arouse Russian susceptibilities. It will be remembered that a similar journey, undertaken some ten years ago by Colonel Yate, then occupying the post now held by Major Sykes, provoked considerable resentment and even representations on the part of the Russian Government. Sir E. Grey considers that at a moment when His Majesty's Government are endeavouring to

establish a better understanding with Russia and Persia, which it is hoped may be promoted by the advent in Tehran of Mr. Spring-Rice and M. Hartwig, it would be inopportune to take a step calculated to arouse Russian susceptibilities and to prove prejudicial to the object in view.

I am to suggest for Mr. Morley's consideration that, in the circumstances, Major Sykes should be instructed not to proceed on his proposed tour this autumn.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) E. GORST.

[21085]

No. 209.

*Sir Edward Grey to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 85.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, June 21, 1906.*

SUCCESSION to Persian Throne. Your telegram No. 165 of yesterday.

It seems to be neither necessary nor desirable at the present moment to make any further communication to the Valiahd, since His Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez has already denied that Shoa-es-Sultaneh is being supported by His Majesty's Government.

[21272]

No. 210.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 22.)*

(No. 167.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, June 22, 1906.*

PERSO-TURKISH frontier dispute.

The following message has been sent to me verbally by the Persian Government, with the request that I should forward it to you :—

“Although the Persian Commission has been for some time near the frontier, there are no signs of the arrival of the Turkish Commission. Throughout the negotiations the Persian Government have given evidence of an earnest desire to arrange the questions at issue in a conciliatory spirit. The Turkish troops on the Luristan frontier and at Mendeli have been reinforced, and anti-Persian propaganda is now being carried on at Soujboulak by the Turkish Consul-General from Tabreez.

“If in three weeks' time the Turkish Commission has not put in an appearance, the Persian Government propose to give the Turkish Government ten days in which to send their Commission. When that term has expired they will consider what further steps they should take.”

[21273]

No. 211.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 22.)*

(No. 168.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, June 22, 1906.*

DISTURBANCES at Shiraz.

The local Chief Mollah has ordered the people to evacuate the Consulate garden, and they are leaving this evening.

[19817]

No. 212.

*Sir Edward Grey to Mr. E. Grant Duff.*

(No. 86.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, June 23, 1906.*

BAKHTIARI road: see your telegram No. 162 and your despatch No. 131.

Suggested tour of inspection by His Majesty's Consul at Ahwaz is authorized. He should be informed, and suitable instructions should be given him.

[21680]

No. 213.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 25.)*

(No. 127.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*St. Petersburg, June 25, 1906.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 283 of the 21st instant, I told the Minister of Foreign Affairs to-day that we had unofficial information that the Persian Government were pretending that they were going to get a loan of 2,000,000*l.* from the Russian Government.

I said that I only mentioned this to put him on his guard, as the Persian Government might make a similar statement with regard to His Majesty's Government, but what they said obtained no credence with us, as it was an old game of theirs to spread such reports.

His Excellency said that the present was not the moment for Russia to lend money to anybody, and assured me that he had heard nothing on the subject.

I said that we knew that such stories must be mere fabrications since the understanding at which we had arrived with Count Lamsdorff.

[21746]

No. 214.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 26.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of Confidential note on Tehran-Khanikin telegraph line by the Director-General of the Indo-European Telegraph Department, dated the 7th June, 1906.

*India Office, June 25, 1906.*

Inclosure in No. 214.

*Note on Tehran-Khanikin Telegraph Line.*

(Confidential.)

IN the "Times" of the 6th June, 1906, there is, under "Foreign Intelligence," a telegram from Constantinople, dated the 30th May, which refers to German commercial designs in Persia, and makes mention of a German application for a Railway Concession from Kermanshah to Khanikin. Some time ago I heard that the German Telegraph Administration had been making inquiries from the Indo-European Telegraph Company regarding the telegraph line between Tehran and Khanikin on the Perso-Turkish frontier. Under Article XVI of our Telegraph Convention with Persia, dated the 2nd December, 1872, the Indo-European Telegraph Department can resume charge at any time of the section of line from Tehran to Khanikin. This Convention has been renewed up to the 31st January, 1925.

A few days ago the Managing Director of the Indo-European Telegraph Company informed me confidentially that his Company was trying to obtain an extension of the period of their present Telegraph Concession from the Persian Government. This Concession runs up to 1925. In the negotiations with the Persian Government the Company have been told that if it could arrange for the British Government to cancel the clause in the Convention under which the charge of the Tehran-Khanikin telegraph line could be resumed, it would considerably facilitate the arriving at a favourable agreement for the desired extension of the Concession. In reply, the Company pointed out that it would be against its own interests if this line came under any other control than British, and that it was quite satisfied with the arrangement as it stood.

It is highly improbable that the Persian authorities would have raised the question of the control of the Tehran-Khanikin line, as they have done, had they not

been asked to do so by some agency that the present arrangement does not suit. The inference appears to be that the Germans, having obtained their Black Sea cable from Constanza to Constantinople, are contemplating extensions of telegraphs to the east as far as Tehran.

(Signed) H. A. KIRK,  
Director-General of the Indo-European Telegraph  
Department.

*June 7, 1906.*

[22136]

No. 215.

*Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 30.)*

(No. 171.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Tehran, June 30, 1906.*

AT Yezd recently a Persian boy was rude to Ziegler's agent and was struck by him. In spite of my intervention, the agent has had to fly for his life, and his successor is in great danger, threatening notices being placarded all over the bazaar. Such situations frequently arise, and the Persian Government either cannot or will not deal with them. In my opinion, the time has come when our Consular guards throughout Persia should be increased.

Yezd is a most fanatical place, and there are a number of missionaries there. Could you see your way to address strong representations to the Persian Chargé d'Affaires on the subject?